

**“Don’t Give Up... I’m Still With You”**  
**Sermon Series: “Words Jesus Would Say”**

(1 of 8)

*Originally Preached Sunday, April 12, 2026*

**33** *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”* - John 16:33

**10** *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*  
- Isaiah 51:10

**9** *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. **10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.* - Galatians 6:9-10

### **What If the Voice You’re Listening To Isn’t His?**

What if Jesus sat down across from you today - not when everything is going well, not when you finally feel like you have your life together, but right in the middle of your real life? What if He looked you in the eyes and spoke directly to you?

Because the truth is, most of us already have a voice speaking to us.

“You should be further along.”

“You messed that up again.”

“Nothing is really changing.”

“Why even try anymore?”

And over time, if we are not careful, we start to believe that voice is telling us the truth. But what if that voice is not His?

This new series asks a simple but important question: What does the voice of Jesus actually sound like in the middle of real life?

Not ideal life...Not polished life...Real life.

And today we begin here: “Don’t give up... I’m still with you.”

Jesus says in John 16:

*“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

— John 16:33

Jesus does not soften reality. He does not pretend life is easier than it is. He does not ask us to come back when everything is cleaned up.

He speaks truth into real life - not escape from real life.

That matters. Because many of us have heard a version of faith that says:  
if you trust God, everything should work out easily.  
If you follow Jesus, life should get simpler.  
If things are hard, something must be wrong.

But Jesus never said that. He said: *"In this world you will have trouble."*

And that means whatever you walked in carrying - stress, grief, uncertainty, exhaustion, addiction, disappointment - Jesus is not ignoring it. He wants to meet you right in the middle of it.

### **You Are Not Alone, Even If It Feels Like It**

There is a difference between generic encouragement and real understanding. Sometimes people mean well, but their words do not reach us.

"It'll all work out."

"Just stay positive."

And inside, we think: You don't get it. But Jesus gets it.

Hebrews tells us:

*"We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses..."*

— Hebrews 4:15

Jesus knows what it feels like to be rejected, misunderstood, and to carry real weight. So when He speaks, He is not speaking from a distance. He is speaking from experience.

That is why God says in Isaiah:

*"Do not fear, for I am with you... I will strengthen you and help you." — Isaiah 41:10*

Notice what God does not promise.

He does not say, "I will remove every problem immediately."

He says, "I will be with you in it."

And sometimes what we need most is not a quick way out - but someone with us.

You can be surrounded by people and still feel completely alone. You can smile, show up, and say you are okay, while inside you are tired, overwhelmed, and carrying more than anyone sees.

Psalms 34 says:

*"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted..." — Psalm 34:18*

Not just close to the put-together. Not just close to the strong. Close to the brokenhearted.

Jesus sees the version of you other people do not see. The tired part. The hurting part. The part that is barely holding it together.

And He stays.

*“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” — Matthew 28:20*

Not when you fix it. Not when you figure it out. Right now.

If Jesus were sitting across from you today, He would not say, “Come back when you have it together.”

He would say: “I’m still with you.”

### **Don’t Quit in the Middle**

Galatians gives us another honest word:

*“Let us not become weary in doing good... if we do not give up.” — Galatians 6:9*

Most people do not quit at the beginning. They quit in the middle.

When it takes longer than expected. When nothing seems to be changing. When they are tired. When progress feels invisible. The middle is where many people fade.

Still showing up, but discouraged.

Still trying, but tired.

And maybe that is where you are right now.

Not walking away completely.

Just weary.

But what if this moment is not proof that it is over?

What if it is proof that God is still writing the story?

Philippians reminds us:

*“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion...” — Philippians 1:6*

What feels unfinished is not abandoned.

It is just not finished yet.

So if Jesus were sitting across from you today,

He would say:

*“Don’t give up... I’m still with you.”*

Not as pressure. Not as performance. As truth.

Life may not change overnight. But something shifts when you realize you are not facing it alone.

And when the other voice shows up this week - the voice of shame, defeat, exhaustion, or fear - remember:

That is not His voice.  
Come back to this instead:

Don't give up....He is still with you.

### **Questions to Carry With You**

1. What voice have I been listening to lately—and how can I tell whether it sounds like Jesus?
2. Where in my life do I feel tired, discouraged, or tempted to give up right now?
3. What would it look like to believe that Jesus is with me in the middle of this, not just at the end of it?
4. When the discouraging voice shows up this week, what truth do I need to speak back to it?