

Harris Creek Baptist Church
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Series: Unseen Battle
May 1, 2022

The Final Battle

Passage: Revelation 19:6-21

6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. 9 And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” 10 Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. 17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.” 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

So there's a lot to love about this season, spring has a lot going for it. Spring brings in better weather, brighter colors, new life. There's lots to love about spring. The only problem for me in

spring is there's no football. I mean I miss football. I don't know, can I get an amen from somebody? Come on! So oftentimes in spring I'll find myself on YouTube actually rewatching old games, which I know is sad. But this is what I'll do to get my football fix in the spring. Whenever I hop onto YouTube to watch old games, I go to the same game nearly every single time. 2014, Baylor-TCU, 61-58. Were any of y'all there? Come on, baby! Man, that thing was awesome, and I love going back and rewatching the game, because it was the best game—bar none—that I've ever been to, because it was one of the best comebacks that I've ever seen in my life. So I love just watching the fan reaction and kind of getting to experience that rollercoaster of emotions that was the 61-58 game. And that means my favorite part of the game to rewatch was not the game-winning field goal. My favorite part of the game to rewatch was when there's 11:38 left in the fourth quarter. Because with 11:38 left in the fourth quarter, Bryce Petty has just thrown a pick six, and we're down by 21 points, and it's over at that point. Right after he throws the pick six, the TV pans the crowd, and everyone, it just seems like someone told them that their dog had just died. I mean, people are bummed out, dejected, and sad because TCU is gonna win. And man, I remember that feeling being there. And I remember being down 21 points, with 11:38 left on the clock, and I'm doing the math in my head, realizing that it's basically statistically impossible for Baylor to win. And I was just so beat down and dejected, and that's what you see on the TV. When it's showing the Baylor student section, everybody's just so bummed out. But watching it now, I want to be like, "Guys! It's okay! In just one second, Devin Chaffin is gonna run a fourth touchdown, and then Antoine Goodly is gonna catch touchdown, and then Corey Coleman is going to catch a touchdown, and then Chris Callahan is going to kick the game-winning field goal. 61-58, we win! It's okay!"

You see, I've had two very different perspectives watching that game. 2014 Nate was absolutely dejected with 11:38 left on the clock. 2022 Nate is smiling ear to ear with 11:38 left on the clock. Why? I know how it ends. I know the final score now, so I don't care what the score is in the middle of the game. I don't even care what the score is in the fourth quarter. In fact, I don't really care anything that happens during the game because I know what happens in the end.

And now I'm preaching! Because as believers in Jesus, we know how this thing ends! And yet, when I look at some of you, it's like looking at the Baylor student section. We're down 21, we're bummed out, dejected, stressed out, and anxious. Why? It's because we're only looking at what's right in front of our face. We're only looking at the current score of our life. We hear that there are wars and rumors of wars. Then we look at our bank account, and we don't like what we see. We look at our career, and that stresses us out. We look at our singleness, and we just want to be married. And we look at marriage, and we don't like what we see, and we honestly wish we were single. And we're so bummed out because we spend all of our time reading about inflation rather than reading Revelation, which is why this morning we're gonna be in Revelation. Because I'm going to do all I possibly can do to pick up our heads a little bit. So we might fix our eyes, not on what is seen, not on what is right in front of our face, but what is unseen. To pick up our eyes from the score right now to the final score, because we know how this thing ends. And when we know how it ends, it should change how we live now.

It only makes sense for us to finish out our sermon series called “Unseen Battle” by talking about the final battle. In Revelation 19, it talks about the final battle, the battle to end all battles, and that’s where we’re gonna be this morning. And just a refresher on our sermon series, if you might be new or missed a few. In Unseen Battle, we have been talking about spiritual warfare. It’s been such a good reminder for me because so often for me I process my life rationally rather than through the lens of spirituality. It’s kind of woken me up to the fact that there is a spiritual war raging on for my soul and your soul. And just as a refresher, here’s what we’ve covered in this series: One, Satan is a fallen angel on earth with a third of the angelic realm. Then we talked about how Satan has a lot of authority on earth to hurt us. He can steal, kill, and destroy. But then we talked about how Satan is no match for Jesus. Jesus defeated Satan on the cross. Then we talked about the armor that God has given us to participate in this battle. And today, as we close out this series, we’re gonna talk about the final battle between God and Satan.

And as I said, we’re gonna be in Revelation 19. And honestly, Revelation has become a weird book for the church. Revelation has really become a book filled with confusion that you can only understand if you have a seminary degree. Bad news: I have a seminary degree and I don’t know who the antichrist is. I mean I have my guesses, but I have no idea. But what you need to know is Revelation is not just about the mark of the beast and bitcoin. While there are really interesting things to study in Revelation—there are, and they can be worth your time—more than anything else, the headline of the book of Revelation is this, this is what you need to know about Revelation: Revelation was not written to confuse the church, but to encourage the church. Because at its heart, what Revelation does is Revelation tells us what happens at the end. It tells us the end of our story. You see, Revelation is a profound gift to the church, and not just one that we’ll unwrap later, it’s one that we can unwrap and appreciate now. Because Revelation was not meant to confuse us, but to encourage us. In fact, this is what it says at the very beginning of Revelation. Revelation 1:3, John writes this, he said, **“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.”** See it says, “blessed are those who hear it,” not, “confused are those who hear it,” because at its core, Revelation is the book that tells us the final score. It tells us that God wins. That God’s gonna take us home. And when we know what happens at the end, it changes how we live our life now. And just one final note of background on the book of Revelation, Revelation was written by John as he was exiled to the island of Patmos, and as he was exiled here, he was actually sent here so that he would no longer be spreading the good news about Jesus. He was sent there so that the gospel could no longer advance. Which is interesting when you think through it in terms of spiritual warfare, because Satan was doing all he possibly could do to exile John and make sure that the gospel no longer moved forward. But while John is on this island in the middle of nowhere, the gospel still advances. Because an angel of God appears to John, and he gives him a vision or a revelation, and then John writes down everything that he sees, and he writes it down to encourage the church.

So today, what we’re gonna be doing is we’re gonna be reading Revelation 19, starting in Verse 11, and this is the battle to end all battles. The unseen battle is becoming visible here. And we’re gonna talk about who wins, who loses, and how that changes how we live today. So starting in Verse 11, this is what it says: **“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white**

horse, whose rider, and this is Jesus he's describing, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, keep in mind, the battle has not happened yet. This is not someone else's blood. This is his own blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress with the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has the name written: King of kings and Lord of lords."

Baby Jesus is out of the manger now. I mean, think how different this is from His first coming. Think how different the second coming is from His first coming. Think how different this picture of Jesus in Revelation is compared to how we typically view Jesus. Maybe whenever you think of Jesus, you kind of think of that picture of Him of how He's often painted. You know, hippie Jesus, long hair, throwing up the deuces. You know, that's kind of how we picture Jesus. That's not the Jesus of Revelation 19. In fact, I wanted to show you what Jesus looked like in Revelation 19, so I did my best Google search, and I realized something as I was looking up the best image I could find of Revelation 19, here's one of the top images I found of Jesus in Revelation 19. (A painting appears on the screen of 'Jesus' with a crown on his head, wearing a red robe, a raised sword in hand, riding on a white horse with an army of men in white robes on horses in the clouds following him.)

That's not the brother I just read about. Seriously, I mean look at this guy! He's got no fire in his eyes, and it's straight up unbiblical. Here, he's holding a sword. The scripture says the sword is coming from his mouth. And his robe here just looks red, it doesn't look like it's dipped in blood. And I don't know if I mentioned this, he doesn't have fire in his eyes here. And, this Jesus is so conservative and modest that, he's so fully clothed, that we can't see the tattoo on his thigh. That's right, I think it's a tattoo. It says King of kings and Lord of lords. This is the Jesus in Revelation 19. But one of Satan's craftiest schemes is to turn Jesus into this. Just this tame, mild-mannered Jesus. That's not Jesus in Revelation 19. Jesus in Revelation 19 is not tame or mild-mannered. This is a 'Time-is-Up' Jesus. This is 'I'm-Coming-with-Wrath' Jesus, this is 'I'm-Coming-with-Fire-in-My-Eyes' Jesus. But Satan would love for us to believe in a spineless savior. Because if he can get us to believe that Jesus is just some weak pushover, it'll change the way we view our entire life. Because if Jesus is just kind of spineless, then our sin doesn't matter as much because Jesus isn't all that bothered by it. And if Jesus is just super tame, I mean, He doesn't really care how much time we spend with Him; He's just happy to be thought of whenever we have time for it. Again, if we can believe in a spineless savior and a weak pushover Jesus, then it'll change the way we live. But you've got to understand that the Bible does not describe Jesus as a pushover. We have a strong Savior who's coming with fire in his eyes, riding on a white horse with a sword coming from his mouth, and he's coming to claim victory. This is the first thing we need to know about the passage in Revelation 19, the first point is that Jesus is coming to claim his victory.

1. *Jesus is Coming to Claim His Victory*

And He's coming with power and He's coming with a vengeance. And here's why. There's a family that I know, I prefer to keep them, uh...I prefer not to say their name, just for the sake of privacy, but there's a family that I know, they're really nice people and they would appreciate if you wouldn't judge them, but this family, they had a baby somewhat recently, about a year ago. And they let the baby be unattended on the couch. Which, I know is a bad parenting thing, but sometimes when you're parenting there's just a lot of things going on. And so, this family in this moment, Adalee was in the kitchen making—I mean, the mom was in the kitchen making—dang it. She was in the kitchen making dinner, and she looked up, and she saw that Jacee's on the couch, but she's just like tipping. And she's about to fall over the edge. As soon as she saw that happen, she changed into a different human. She ran around the counter, threw aside a bar stool, jumped through the air over the back of the couch, and grabbed Jacee as she's sucking on her pacifier about to hit the floor. Meanwhile, Jacee has no idea that she was ever in danger at all. But you see, whenever you're a parent, you will do anything to save your kids. Maybe you've had this happen before, maybe your kid's been in the road and a car was about to come by, and you run out and save them. Maybe your car...maybe your person, your kid is in the pool, and they're about to drown and you jump in and save them. See, whenever you realize your kids are in danger, you don't care how far away they are, you don't care what's in your path, you're moving aside anything and anyone that's in the way of you and your kid's safety.

This is Revelation 19. Jesus is coming to establish our safety and security for the rest of the rest of the rest of the rest, and he's moving aside anything that's in His way. Anything that's gonna come in the way of His kids or His glory. And this is important for us to understand, because last week as we talked about the armor of God, it's a great passage as it talks about how God has given us armor to participate in the war against the enemy. But, Revelation 19 teaches us, so important as we pair it with last week's message, because Revelation 19 teaches us that Jesus does not just say, "Hey here's a breastplate of righteousness, good luck." No, he's coming down to fight with us, and for us. And he's the one who's gonna strike the fatal blow. This is who Jesus is. He's coming down on a white horse with fire in his eyes and a sword in his mouth, ready to strike down our enemy. See, Jesus is not tame. Our Savior is not spineless, and this is essential to our theology, because Jesus is coming with power to claim His victory. But if there's a winner, that also means there's a loser. So, let's see what happens next. The sky breaks forth, white horse comes down, what happens next in this passage, verse 17. John writes, **"And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, 'Come, gather together for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small.' 19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth, and their armies gather together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. 20 But the beast was captured and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs, he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshipped its image. The two of them were thrown alive in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 21 The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh."**

Well, that's heartwarming. But here's the deal: sometimes the Bible isn't all that heartwarming. At Harris Creek, we want to teach the Bible. We don't just want to teach the parts of scripture that leave us with warm fuzzies, we want to teach the parts of the Bible that also make us lose our appetites for lunch, and this is one of those passages. It's a tough passage, but the Holy Spirit left it in there for a reason. And one of the interesting things about this passage that I realized is that in Revelation 19, it says that everyone ends up at a feast. We're about to read this in a second, but the beginning of the passage describes a different feast. There's what's called the Wedding Banquet of the Lamb. And at the end of the passage, it's a very different feast, and it's called the Great Supper of God. Revelation 19 says that everyone ends up at a feast, there's just two very different feasts. At one feast, you will be feasting with Jesus. The other feast you will feasted upon by the birds of the air. Man, that's not an attractive message, it's not an appetizing message, but this is what we see in scripture. At the end of the end of the end, you're either eating with Jesus, or you're being eaten. Whether you're slave or free, you're a king or a general, doesn't matter who you are, if you choose the side of Satan, you end up losing. Which is the second thing we can learn in this passage, point number two, Satan and his army will lose.

2. *Satan and His Army will Lose*

And I think another one of Satan's crafty schemes is making us believe that this isn't true. I think he'd prefer for us to never think about this. I think he'd prefer for us to think that he doesn't even exist, that he's not even at work. And I recently realized this in my own life. I noticed this. And maybe you've noticed this as well if you've been around here for a while. But a lot of times whenever JP preaches, he uses the word satanic a lot. I don't know if you noticed that, but after a while I was like, "Bro, you use satanic a lot. You said something like, 'Gossiping is satanic,' and it just felt a little over the top and dramatic." But he's like, "Nate, no, I say it with such clarity and purpose." Because things either honor God, or they honor Satan. Things are either satanic, or they are godly, there is no uncontested middle ground. Man, that stuck with me, there is no uncontested middle ground. This is what Revelation 19 says, there's no uncontested middle ground. You're either in the army of Satan, or you are in the army of God. And you're either going to win big, or you're going to lose big. But the enemy is gonna whisper things in your ear, and say things like, "Hey, this is just an allegory, you don't need to think about it." Or, "This is just Revelation, Jesus would never speak this way." This is not just Revelation. This is the Gospels. In fact, Jesus talked about this frequently in the Gospels. This is what I got from Gospel Coalition, it said this, "Jesus doesn't only reference hell, he describes it in great detail. He says it is a place of eternal torment, of unquenchable fire, where the worm does not die, where people will gnash their teeth in anguish and regret, and from which there is no return, even to warn loved ones. He calls it a place of outer darkness, comparing it to "Gehenna," which was a trash dump outside the walls of Jerusalem, where rubbish was burned and maggots abound. Jesus talked about hell more than he talks about heaven, and he describes it more vividly. There's no denying that Jesus knew, believed, and warned about the absolute reality of hell."

Once again, we'd prefer to tame down this message, but all throughout scripture, it's just a picture of God waving at us, going, "Don't follow that guy! Don't follow our enemy! Don't follow him, because in the end it's only gonna lead to death and destruction." The problem is

that all throughout scripture, it ends up with people responding the same way as in Genesis Chapter 3, going, “Does God really know what’s best? Is He trying to keep me from something good?” No, he’s trying to keep you from the place where Satan was created for. Because while it’s good news for us that Jesus wins, there is an enemy that’s going to do all he possibly can do to make sure you lose with him. And if you’re like me, man, my personality doesn’t really move towards this message. I don’t like people getting eaten at, I don’t like people getting eaten by birds. I don’t appreciate that. But look again at what Revelation 19:19 says, this is important for us to understand theologically. It says, **“Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together, this is important, to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army.”** See, this is not just a group of people that God wants to destroy for the fun of it. Satan was the one to wage war. Satan was the one to make the first move. God made the earth perfectly and then we were the ones to wage war against Him. Scripture says that God **“wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth,”** 1 Timothy 2 Verse 4, but if anyone from slaves to kings to Satan himself is going to wage war and try to defeat God, they will be defeated. Because God will do anything He needs to do to protect His kids and to protect His glory, and this is the end result of spiritual warfare. Jesus wins. Satan and his army lose.

So, let’s talk about what this means for us. If we know what happens at the end, if this is the end of our story, the end of the Bible, the end of the story of God, how should we live now? Well, I’m actually gonna take us back in the chapter a little bit to Verse 6. This is right before Jesus comes on a white horse, and this is what we’re meant to do now. It says this, Revelation 19:6, **“Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder shouting: “Hallelujah for our Lord God Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)”** See, as followers of Jesus, we are invited to the Wedding Banquet of the Lamb, and this is what we’re living for. This is the goal of our life. It’s not so we make a bunch of money, it’s not so that we get married, it’s not so we raise nice kids, it’s so that we’d have a seat at this table. Where we’ll eat the best food, drink the best wine that heaven has to offer. See, you want to make it to this feast because feasts are really some of the best parts of our life. You’ve probably been at a rehearsal dinner, or maybe a graduation dinner, birthday dinner, something like that. One of the favorite moments of my life was at my rehearsal dinner. Because my family was there, Adalee’s family was there, and our best friends from different seasons of our life were there. We ate great food. And then people stood around and told stories for hours. So one of my friends would stand up, and he’d laugh telling the story of how I was absolutely just so nervous to ask her out. Like, my friends truly had to push me to the edge to take my shot and ask Adalee out on a date, and we laughed about that story, and then one of Adalee’s friends would stand up and tell a story of how Adalee impacted their life, we just went back and forth for hours and we laughed until we cried. And then after, later that night, my friends gathered around me, laid hands on me, and they prayed for me, and I’m not really a crier, but man, I was just weeping out of the generosity and the kindness of God, that he provided these friends and family to me. But that day was just a shadow of the day that we’re going to. Because on that day, you’re not gonna be telling stories about me, or about Adalee. We’re gonna be telling stories about how Jesus saw and saved us. And I cannot wait to

be sitting at that table with you and to hear the story of when you were at your absolute lowest, when you thought no one else cared, Jesus stepped in and He saved your life. And maybe we'll be getting to sit next to the disciples and Peter. Maybe we'll get to hear them laugh as they tell the story of Peter walking on water, only for him to get terrified and start drowning, and then Jesus picked him up and saved him from drowning. Or maybe we'll get to sit next to Mary Magdalene, and we'll get to hear about the horror of the cross, only to be followed with the hope of the resurrection. See, I want to make it there. That's where I want to end up, more than anything else in my life, I want to be there.

But it's hard for us to even fathom it because a feast is so counter to our culture. Because we live our lives, here in America, we live so frantically. You can't be frantic at a feast. Nobody's trying to get to baseball practice later. Nobody's checking their phone for Instagram or responding to texts, because at a feast, you're fully present. Because at a feast, everyone you want and everything you need is right there. And that's where we're going. And that's how we need to spend the rest of our lives, preparing for that day. Which is point number three, our job is to get ready for the feast.

3. Our Job is to Get Ready for the Feast

Revelation 19:7 says, **“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.”** Part of the rejoicing here is that the bride has made herself ready. She's here, she's ready, she spent her whole life preparing for this day, and she's made it, she's got a seat at the table. And maybe you're thinking, “I want to be there, but how do I get there? I'm not good enough to get there. I don't have what it takes to get there. What do I need to wear to get there?” Here's what you need to know: there is absolutely a dress code to get in. There is. And in Jesus's time, whenever a king would throw a wedding banquet, there was a dress code to get in, because if you're going to be at the king's feast you had to wear a very expensive robe, which meant the vast majority of society could not afford to get in. Which is why the king provided the robe. You showed up in rags, the king gave you a robe, and the robe gave you a seat at the table. Which is why Verse 8 says, **“Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)** We didn't earn the robe. He's given us a robe of righteousness, and that gives us a seat at the table. And this is not your righteousness. Scripture says elsewhere, Romans 3:22, **“This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”** This is the good news of the gospel. You did not earn it. You did not deserve it. But instead, Jesus wins and then he hands you His victory. If this is true, how now shall we live? If this is the end result, that Jesus is coming and He's coming to take us home, and that He wins, and He's gonna welcome us home. If this is true of our life, if this is the end of our story, how should that change our life now?

Here's what I came up with. If this is the end of our story, it means that your net worth matters less, your generosity matters more. Your promotion matters less, your obedience matters more. Your rejection matters less, His acceptance matters more. Your failures, they matter less, His grace matters more. Your happiness matters less, your holiness matters more. Your loneliness matters less, His presence matters more. Your kids' GPA matters less, your kids' knowing Jesus

matters more. Your kids' sports team matters less, your kids knowing Jesus matters more. Your kids thinking you are cool matters less, your kids knowing Jesus matters more. Your time reading the news matters less, your time reading the Bible matters more. Your Instagram followers matter less, your following of Jesus matters more. Your popularity matters less, your prayer life matters more. Your sports team winning matters less, you losing your life matters more. Your countertops matter less, carrying your cross matters more. And ultimately death matters less because the empty grave matters more.

What I'm not saying—you've got to hear this—what I'm not saying is this life doesn't matter. What I am saying, is don't you dare make temporary things eternal things. This life is not all there is. What you see right now is not the end of the story. This is not the final score, this is just the in-between. So, don't you dare fix your eyes on what is seen rather than what is unseen because after all, you've got to remember this: **“What would it gain a man for him to gain the whole world yet lose his soul?”** Mark 8:36. So here's what we believe: Jesus wins, and Jesus is coming to welcome us home. If we believe Revelation 19, if we believe the gospel, how unloving would it be for us to not tell our friends or our neighbors or our families. Because what they think about us matters far less than what they think about Him. And no one we know should not know the love available to them in Jesus. It's available to all. So in summary, point one: Jesus is coming to claim his victory. Point two: Satan and his army will lose. Point number three: Our job is to get ready for the feast. To finish, I just want to take you back to that Baylor-TCU football game, back in 2014. If you were there that day, maybe you're even just watching on TV, if you were there that day, do you remember what happened when we went down by 21 points in the fourth quarter? Do you remember what happened with 11:38 left on the clock and in the fourth? If you had an upper-level seat where you had a view of the bridge going over the Brazos, you remember what happened. When we went down by 21 points, and it looked like it was over, people left. Lots and lots and lots of people left. Because Baylor was gonna lose. Game was done, it was almost statistically impossible for Baylor to win. And now whenever I watch it back, you can actually see this, people are leaving. If you watch it right now, 11:38 left on the clock, they kick the extra point, and there is a rush of people leaving the game. Whenever I watch it now, I just want to say, “Go back! Go back! It's not over! It's not done! You're gonna regret this for the rest of your life! You've been given a ticket to the best game you could ever watch, and you left before it was done!”

How much regret do you think they felt whenever they got the parking lot and they heard the roars from the crowd at McLane? As the comeback happened immediately after they left. See, Baylor won that day, but they lost. Because they left before it was over. Here's what you've got to know, we've got to know the way the enemy's gonna attack us, and his goal is that. He knows Jesus wins. He knows he loses. Revelation 12, if you read elsewhere, it says he knows his time is short, what he's going to do now is he's just going to try to make sure you lose with him. He wants to make you leave the game. He's going to make you feel hopeless. He's going to make you feel lonely. He's going to make it seem like we're losing. He's going to do all he can to make this life and this world feel, look, smell, touch, like we're losing. Don't take the bait! As your pastor and as your friend, I'm going to be there at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. I want to make sure you're there with me.

We know how this ends. Don't get distracted by the here and now. We know the final score. So why are we so anxious about the middle? Don't take the bait. Don't let him convince you in your loneliness that Jesus isn't there for you. Don't let him distract you with the shiny things this world has to offer. And don't you dare, in your pain, let him convince you that Jesus isn't good. Because we know how this ends. Jesus wins and Jesus welcomes us home; just don't give up. Keep following Jesus. Because just because your life feels hopeless, doesn't mean it is. Just because your life seems dark right now, doesn't mean that light isn't going to break forth, and just because your world feels lonely, doesn't mean you're all alone. And just because it seems like evil is winning, doesn't mean that evil wins. Because church, as I said this before, we've got to know this, the book of Revelation was not written to confuse us, but to encourage us. Because it's a reminder of how this whole thing ends. It was written to tell us, we need not fear tomorrow, for tomorrow has already been won. And when we know the end of the story, it changes how we live our story. Let me pray that it'd be true of us.

God, so many times in this sermon series, we've been preaching on passages that say stay firm, remain steadfast, don't move. I pray that'd be true of our church. That we wouldn't allow any of the enemy's attacks or whispers in our ear convince us that we're losing or that you don't care for us. Father, I pray your Holy Spirit would inspire faith and strength within us to remain planted in you, the rock of our salvation, the only ground that is not shifting sand. And I pray that no one in this room and no one watching online would dare get up and leave your presence, because God, I pray you'd remind them right now, this thing's not over yet. If this world looks bad, it's because it is bad, but we know there's a day coming when you're going to wipe away every tear. When every wrong will be made right, and we'll be welcomed home in your arms. God, I pray that we wouldn't miss out. And God, more than anything else, I just want to thank you that we don't earn it. There's nothing that we can do to deserve it, but it's only because of your son, Jesus, that He came and lived a life we should've lived. That He died the death we should've died, but then He rose again so that we might rise again too. God, thank you for this message of your gospel, that it's a message of hope and of joy, and of peace. I pray that we'd live like it. I pray that through encounters with people in our life this week, whether it's a neighbor, friend, family member, that they could feel something different. That they could sense that we're not anxious, we're not worried, because we know that Jesus wins. So God, I pray that as a church body right now we'd worship like it. We'd worship like you've won because you have. Because you have. So Father, we love you and we pray all this in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.