

# The Source of Peace

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### 4-23-24

John 16:33 (NLT) I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

(AMP) I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace. In the world you have tribulation *and* distress *and* suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world.” [My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding.]

These are the final remarks of a lengthy conversation Jesus had with his disciples after washing their feet at the Last Supper, just before He was crucified. As we see in this verse, Jesus is emphasizing that following Him can lead to tough times.

Becoming a Christ follower does not guarantee an easy life. However, according to Jesus it should be a life full of hope and peace.

The question is, how do we experience the peace that Jesus talks of? How can we live in peace in this crazy world? A world plagued by wars, rumors of wars, natural disasters, violence, and economic uncertainty. A world in which right is wrong and wrong is right. A world in which evil is exalted and purity is despised. A world that rejects biblical ideals and encourages depravity and perversion. A world that is growing increasingly antagonistic toward Christianity, much like the world did for the disciples.

The short answer is that we find peace in Christ.

Too often, we place greater value on the quality of our faith than on the greatness and power of Jesus Christ, the object of our faith.

Like the disciples, if we are to endure the hardships that are ahead of us, then we need to know and believe in the one who had called us into His service.

John 16:33 (Phillips) I have told you all this so that you may find your peace in me. You will find trouble in the world—but, never lose heart, I have conquered the world!”

#### **Who was He and what did He say?**

There was a lot that he had told them from chapter 13-16.

Let me give you a quick overview of some of the key things he had told them during the meal.

## **I am the promised Messiah**

John 13:18-19 (NLT) "I am not saying these things to all of you; I know the ones I have chosen. But this fulfills the Scripture that says, 'The one who eats my food has turned against me.' <sup>19</sup> I tell you this beforehand, so that when it happens you will believe that I AM the Messiah.

## **I am the way the truth and the life**

John 14:1-3 and 6 (NLT) "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. <sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

## **I will not abandon you**

John 14:18-20 (NLT) No, I will not abandon you as orphans, I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

I can only imagine how the disciples felt that after His death. Jesus was gone and now they had to figure out life by themselves. They had left everything to follow Him and now they were alone and afraid. But Jesus had given them a promise. It would all make sense and everything would change when He returned. They would not be left alone.

## **I will give you the Helper**

John 14:25-29 (NLT) I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative, that is, the Holy Spirit, he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. <sup>27</sup> "I am leaving you with a gift, peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. <sup>28</sup> Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is greater than I am. <sup>29</sup> I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.

## **I am the source of life**

John 15:1-5 (NLT) "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. <sup>3</sup> You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

Jesus wants them to understand that He is the source of life. He uses the analogy of a grapevine to illustrate that, like a vine branch, they cannot grow fruit unless they are connected to Him.

What is he saying to them and us now?

He is telling us to stay close to Him. Do not detach, and do not lose faith. You may not see the fruit right away, but the Father is working and the life of Christ life is flowing in us, and in time, we will not only yield fruit, but abundant fruit.

You may fall short in your walk with Him, as Peter did, in a moment of weakness and self-preservation, and you may even deny that you know Him, but do not disengage; instead, repent, turn to Him, and remain in His love.

John 15:9-11 (NLT) "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!"

Jesus wants them to understand that following Him won't be easy. But if they remain engaged and turn to Him, they will find peace and joy in the midst of a chaotic world.

He too knew what it was like to face the hatred of a crazy world.

John 15:18-21 (NLT) "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup>The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. <sup>20</sup>Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you.

John 16:1-2 (NLT) "I have told you these things so that you won't abandon your faith. <sup>2</sup>For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God.

In his final conversation with the disciples before his crucifixion, Jesus covers a great deal of ground, and even with everything that He has said, it is too much for them to take in at this point.

John 16:12-13 (NLT) "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth."

### **I will turn your grief into joy**

John 16:20-22 (NLT) I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy. <sup>21</sup>It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world. <sup>22</sup>So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.

Jesus didn't promise that everything was going to be easy, but when we understand who He is and what he has done for us will find peace.

Jesus is the Messiah; He is the way, the truth, and the life; He has given us the Holy Spirit; He is the source of our life and fruitfulness; He is the one who turns sorrow into joy. He will never leave us. He is the source of peace.