

Jesus Christ Has Overcome The World

Hope Chapel Honolulu

John 16:16-33

“Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

(John 16:32-33, ESV)

Introduction

Many millions of Christians around will be celebrating something called Palm Sunday this week, a commemoration of Jesus’ triumphant arrival in Jerusalem, the event we can read about in Matthew 21:1-11. Palm Sunday was a great celebration and (short-lived) welcome of Christ as the Messiah as well as the fulfillment of prophecy (Zechariah 9:9). But less than six days later Christ will have been betrayed, arrested, beaten, crucified and thankfully, as we’ll celebrate next week, resurrected. The conversation we are looking at today took place just a few hours before Christ was arrested.

1. The mystery of the Godhead. (John 16:16-19)

- a) The disciples’ sense of loss on the night Jesus was betrayed.
- b) Jesus knew what was going on in the hearts and minds of His disciples.

2. From the depths of sorrow to the fullness of joy. (John 16:20-24)

- a) The disciples would mourn, but the world (*kosmos*) would rejoice.
- b) Jesus’ promise of sorrow turning to joy, and then a fullness of joy.

3. Jesus has overcome the world. (John 16:25-33)

- a) Jesus promises to share His relationship with God the Father.
- b) “In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (v.33)

Conclusion

While possible to second-guess the reaction of the disciples here--much as sports fans will second-guess coaches and players the day after a game--there’s no denying the disciples’ apparent inability to understand God’s will, the seeming failure of God’s plan, their fear they would very soon feel, and the rejection they would very soon share with Christ. Yet in the midst of all this turmoil, God’s power, love and faithfulness began to be revealed where there seemed to be no hope and only desperation.

For our prayerful study, discovery and application

- 1) Read John 16:16-19 and discuss what was natural and was supernatural in the conversation.
- 2) Read, talk and pray about the meaning of John 16:33 to Christ, the disciples and you.
- 3) Read Luke 19:28-23:56 before Easter, and have conversations about what Easter means to you.

032518cdg@hch