

I have Overcome the World

John 16:33

“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.”

Jesus is speaking this passage on Maundy Thursday eve, just before He will be betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. The disciples did not know what was ahead concerning Jesus’s suffering death and resurrection. But, Jesus knew, and He is giving them comfort and encouragement for the time that it will happen.

When Jesus says, I have told you these things, he is referring to entire farewell discourse. In the hours before Jesus’ Passion, his love for his disciples is unwavering.

In matter of hours Jesus is going to suffer and die, and he knows this full well. It is extremely amazing that even though he is fully aware of that, he is still more concerned about his disciples than his upcoming suffering and death. The comfort disciples needed was foremost on his mind, even when he knew what was ahead for him. We are in need of his comfort too, and our constant needs are ever at the uppermost on his mind as well.

Then Jesus gives them the assurance of peace. Peace here is not a cessation of wars. It is a deep calm of knowing that we belong to Jesus no matter what is going on in our current situation. That peace comes from Jesus, and He will never leave us or forsake us.

Trouble is an ever constant in this sinful world in which we live. The devil uses it to bring us to despair, wanting us to give up. But, the answer to all of our trouble can be found in the last sentence of this verse.

By proclaiming, I have overcome the world, Jesus is affirming the final victory. Jesus does this just before His death, and it is still good for every problem that comes into our life, now and in the future. Therefore we can always, always, take heart.

No matter what we may encounter today or in the days to come, we always take heart knowing that Jesus has overcome the world. That means there is nothing he can’t do when it comes to what troubles that may come in in our daily lives.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for your ongoing care for us every moment of every day. Help us to look to you when a giant wave of problems comes into our lives. Help us to totally lean on you in every situation. Amen.