

## Overcome

A lot of times I think life should be like a Disney movie. There will be some hardships and drama, and it may look like the bad guys will win. But after some climactic musical number, good always prevails and everyone lives happily ever after. While we have our happily ever after in heaven, that happily ever after is never promised here on this earth. In fact, Jesus constantly warns us of hard times, persecution, and suffering. As Jesus is continuing His final message to His disciples, He shares with them some very hard warnings of what will come. But He also gives some amazing promises and hope that we want to explore today.

A few reflection questions before we look at God's Word:

- 1) What helps you get through something hard? What do you hope in when you are facing something hard?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What specifically is hard for you right now in regards to COVID (e.g., afraid of getting sick, someone I know is sick, miss my friends at school, low motivation)?

Before you read God's Word, take a minute to **pray**, asking Him to help you better understand where He is in the middle of hard things you are facing.

**John 16:1-3** <sup>1</sup>"I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. <sup>2</sup>They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. <sup>3</sup>And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.

- 3) What does Jesus promise will happen to the disciples? How is this different than what the disciples were expecting?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) If this is what the disciples were to expect, what does that imply about what we should expect?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) According to verse 3, why will persecution and hardship come to the followers of Jesus?



- 9) Based on this conviction what truth does everyone in the world either subconsciously or consciously know? Why would this make the world hate believers in Jesus?

**John 16:12-15** <sup>12</sup>*“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

- 10) From verse 13, what will the Holy Spirit do in the lives of believers? What is the Spirit’s source of truth?

- 11) Note that verse 13 says the Spirit will guide us “into ALL truth”. Based on this promise, what does it practically mean we should do when we have questions about why something is happening or are uncertain about what we should do in a situation?

**John 16:16-24** <sup>16</sup>*“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” <sup>17</sup>So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” <sup>18</sup>So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” <sup>19</sup>Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? <sup>20</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup>When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup>So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. <sup>23</sup>In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. <sup>24</sup>Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*

- 12) Here Jesus is telling His disciples they will be sad and sorrowful when He leaves them (of course it would be hard to watch Jesus die). But that sorrow would turn to joy (verse 20) and ultimately into a full joy (verse 24). What do you think Jesus means when He says He wants us to have “full joy”? What is “full joy” versus “partial joy”?
- 13) How does the transition happen going from sorrow to joy? Keep in mind Jesus’ analogy about childbirth in verse 21.
- 14) Do you think you have a “full joy” now? If not, what do you think it would take for you to get there?

**John 16:25-33** <sup>25</sup>*“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup>In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup>for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup>I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”*

<sup>29</sup>*His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! <sup>30</sup>Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” <sup>31</sup>Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>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.”*

- 15) What does Jesus clearly tell the disciples He will do (see verse 28)? What does Jesus clearly tell the disciples will happen to them (see verses 32-33)?
- 16) Where does Jesus say peace comes from in verse 33? What do you think that practically looks like?

- 17) Throughout this whole chapter, Jesus has been talking about how the world is fighting against those who believe in Him. What does Jesus promise will happen in the end (see verse 33)? How should that give us hope today?
- 18) Think back to the situations you mentioned are hard right now (Question #2). How does the fact that Jesus has overcome the world give hope in that situation? What would it practically look like for you to have peace in Jesus today?

Consider closing your time worshiping the Lord that He has and will win. One of my favorite worship songs, especially during Easter, is Death was Arrested.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMsMiluCUUI>