

MESSAGE

Overcome

CHOSEN WORDS SERIES | MARCH 21/22, 2015 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

JOHN 15:18-25; 16:16-33

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Tension: Jesus' Followers and the World (15:18-25)

- The world's hatred for Jesus' followers because of Jesus (15:18, 20)
- The world's hatred for Jesus' followers because of their distinction from the world (15:19)
- The world's hatred for Jesus' followers because the world does not know the Father (15:21)
- The world's hatred for Jesus' followers because Jesus addresses sin (15:22-24)

"In a little while": the transformation of circumstances through Jesus (16:16-22, 32)

Grief: The "little while" of Jesus' departure	→ Joy: After "a little while" with Jesus' return
16:19,22 Grief first as Jesus departs for the Cross	→ Joy later with Jesus' return from death
16:20 Grief while the world rejoices	→ Grief turned into joy
16:21 Like the anguish of a woman in labor	→ Like the joy of a child's birth
16:32,22 Jesus left alone by His followers	→ Jesus returns to His followers

The Joy-Filled Life in Jesus (16:22-33)

- Secure Joy: A joy that cannot be taken away (16:22)
- Complete Joy: the life of prayer with the Father (16:23-24)
- Loving Joy: the Father's direct love (16:27)
- Persevering Joy: the reality of Jesus' return to the Father (16:28)
- Peaceful Joy: the peaceful rest of knowing Jesus' truth (16:33)
- Overcoming Joy: A joy secured through Jesus' overcoming work (16:33)

STUDY GUIDE

1. What are some of the simple things that give you joy in the midst of the challenges of life?
2. This week we continue our series, "Chosen Words," looking at John 15:18-25 and 16:16-33. Before you read these two portions of Scripture aloud, take a moment to ask God to speak to you as you read His word.
3. In John 15:18-25, Jesus directly addresses the tension – even hatred – that will exist between the world and Jesus' followers. The 'world' in John's writings represents, as one scholar says, "the godless world...organized in opposition to God, and therefore opposed to His people." What reasons does Jesus offer for why the world will hate Jesus' followers in verses 18-25?
4. How have you experienced hatred or tension in your own life because of your allegiance to Jesus? How did you respond?
5. Moving forward to John 16:16-18, what is troubling the disciples? Look back over chapters 13-16 and consider how many times Jesus hints at His pending departure from the disciples. Why do you think Jesus is saying this?
6. In verse 4, Jesus says: "neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." If bearing fruit is directly tied to 'remaining' – or 'abiding' or 'staying put' – in Jesus, what does Jesus specifically mean by remaining in Him from this passage?
7. While some different interpretations of this passage exist, it is most likely that Jesus is talking about His departure for arrest and crucifixion (John 18-19), and His return to the disciples by resurrection (John 20). How does Jesus explain this happening in 16:19-22?
8. Jesus further explains the change of relationship with His Father that will occur for Him and for His disciples in verses 23-28. What new characteristics of relationship exist for His followers because of the Cross and resurrection?
9. What do you think is the significance of Jesus concluding this entire segment of teaching found in chapters 13-16 with the words about overcoming and peace found in verse 33?
10. What is one specific thing that God is speaking to you through this study? How will that shape your life in the coming week? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and pray for one another. If you are studying on your own, write it down and share it with someone.

[Next week we continue our series, "Chosen Words," by exploring Jesus' prayer from John 17. Read that portion of Scripture ahead of time.]