



## Week 11: Jesus Has Overcome the World (16:25-33 Passion Translation)

A form of the word ***nikao*** (overcome) is used by Jesus in John 16:33 where He said, "I have overcome the world." It means to conquer, overcome, vanquish, or subdue. It comes from the greek word, ***nike***, which means victory! In effect, Jesus, is saying, "**I have conquered Satan's system.**"

One of the truths about a Christian is that he is "**in Christ.**" The Christian is in an inseparable union with Jesus Himself and as a result, is a partaker of His divine nature...

<sup>6</sup> Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

<sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you ***live in Christ Jesus.*** (Phil 4:6–7 NLT-SE)

A Christian shares and engages in everything that Christ is and has, including His inheritance, righteousness, death, life, and Spirit. We even share in his **persecution** and **suffering**...

<sup>11</sup> You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was ***persecuted*** in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—but the Lord rescued me from all of it. <sup>12</sup> Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will ***suffer persecution.*** (2 Tim 3:11–12 NLT-SE)

Since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also ***share his suffering.*** (Rom 8:17 NLT-SE)

We also **share in His victory**. Since Christ is a victor, Christians share and experience His victory. The believer then, is a victor. So, those who have been born of God are true **OVERCOMERS**.

### Today's Text: 16:25-33 (Passion Translation)

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<sup>25</sup>"I have spoken to you using figurative language but the time is coming when I will no longer teach you with veiled speech, but I will teach you about the Father with your eyes unveiled. <sup>26</sup> And I will not need to ask the Father on your behalf, for you'll ask Him directly because of your new relationship with Me. <sup>27</sup> For the Father tenderly loves you, because you love Me and believe that I've come from God. <sup>28</sup> I came to you, sent from the Father's presence, and I entered into the created world, and now I will leave this world and return to the Father's side."

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1. It's easy to look at this section of the conversation between Jesus and His disciples and come to the conclusion that He is worried about them and trying to prepare them for what lies ahead. Not quite. Mostly, Jesus is teaching the disciples about **the nature of God!**
  2. Jesus clearly reveals **how God feels about them**...because of their relationship with Him. By Jesus' own testimony, the Father responds directly to two things: Their belief that Jesus was sent from God and their willingness to genuinely love Him. Because of their faith in Him, and love for Him, they have entered into adoption as children of God, and this is obviously a very personal reality to Jesus.

3. Take a look at the power of verse 28 again. It contains a simple, yet tremendously weighty summary of Christ's entire life, his incarnation, and his destiny. In it, Jesus reveals that

*"I came to you, sent from the Father's presence, and I entered into the created world,  
and now I will leave this world and return to the Father's side."*

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**<sup>29</sup> His disciples said, "At last you're speaking to us clearly and not using veiled speech and metaphors! <sup>30</sup> Now we understand that you know everything there is to know, and we don't need to question you further. Everything You've taught us convinces us that You have come directly from God!"**

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1. Augustine says: "They so little understood that they did not even understand that they did not understand. For they were babes."
2. The security of the disciples understanding actually rested on their ability to comprehend what Jesus was saying to them. They were thought if they could only understand what Jesus was saying, they would have peace about what He was saying. Jesus had been speaking to them in figures—the foot washing, the vine and the branches, and the woman in childbirth. "But now you're speaking to us clearly...Everything You've taught us convinces us that You have come directly from God!" Unfortunately, their faith was still in **what** they knew, not **who** they knew!

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**<sup>31</sup> Jesus replied, "Now at last you believe in Me! <sup>32</sup> And the time has come when you will all be scattered and each one of you will go your own way, leaving Me alone! Yet I am never alone, for the Father is always with Me. <sup>33</sup> Everything I've taught you is so that the peace which is in Me will be in you and will give you great confidence as you rest in Me. In this unbelieving world you will experience trouble and sorrows, but you must be courageous, for I have conquered the world!"**

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1. As much as they thought they understood about what was going down, the reality was that one would betray Him, another would deny Him, THREE TIMES, and all of them but one, John, would be nowhere to be found at His crucifixion!
2. Everything Jesus had told them up to this point was **not** intended to simply give them **accurate information**. He wanted them not only understand the situation, but He wanted to give them **the PEACE to get through it!**
  - Jesus knows who He is and He is at peace...**He is shalom incarnate!**
  - In this, His final message to His disciples, Jesus encourages them with a parting gift, "**my peace I give to you!**" He promises them His peace. The paradox of the Cross is that peace is achieved **through conflict, not around it!**
  - Jesus died in conflict with the world on the cross and disempowered the very foundations of Satan's evil empire. The warfare continues, but with faith that we will, "**in Christ**" **overcome the world as well.**
  - The **Prince of Peace** entered our brokenness, faced off with evil, and delivered a head-crushing blow to death itself.
3. How much comfort does Jesus give us in vs. 32 and 33?

**"The time has come when you will all be scattered and each one of you will go your own way,  
leaving Me alone! Yet I am never alone, for the Father is always with Me.  
Everything I've taught you is so that the peace which is in Me will be in you  
and will give you great confidence as you rest in Me.  
In this unbelieving world you will experience trouble and sorrows,  
but you must be courageous, for I have conquered the world!"**

4. **The Problem with Evil:** The bible is clear that God isn't responsible for the evil we experience in the world, but, **evil is what happens when sin disrupts the peace of God.** For the individual, peace in the here and now is NOT the absence of conflict, but calm that comes with resting in God—right in the middle of conflict."

5. **Where is God** when you are going through trials, suffering, or persecution? God is present with you in your trouble. Jesus says it here: "...each one of you will go your own way, leaving Me alone! Yet I am never alone, for **the Father is always with Me.**
6. **Jesus has overcome**, the structures of evil have been "over-ruled" by the Prince of Peace! What does that mean? His grand vision for peace in the kingdom is not churches packed with lots of people, lots of money, and lots of influence. Jesus' vision of peace is another garden. (Rev 22:1-2) God's eternal plan is to restore heaven and earth, as well as His eternal reign of peace there. So, how are we supposed to respond to this promise of peace?
7. After Jesus left the supper He was sharing with His disciples, He went to one of His favorite places to pray...**a garden!** He was later arrested, put on trial, tortured, and hung on a cross to die. By early afternoon, He was dead. Three days later the tomb is empty. The disciples lock themselves in a room, afraid to go anywhere. Jesus appears to them and what does He say? **"Peace be with you!"** Astonished, they touched His side and He said to them, **"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."** (John 20:21 NLT-SE)
8. **We are being sent as messengers of His peace.** Our call is not to pull back, but to **overcome, to conquer.** In Jesus' words, "You must be courageous, for I have conquered the world!" Our assignment is to advance as peacemakers in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and communities. Will it be easy? Probably not. Will we feel like we're over our heads? Most likely. But, we have a promise from the Prince of Peace...

**"Everything I've taught you is so that the peace which is in Me will be in you  
and will give you great confidence as you rest in Me."**