

Peace in the Midst of Affliction

John 16:25-33

July 30, 2023

1. The Christian Faith and the Coming Hour (25-28)

- a. Jesus prepares His disciples for the coming era in which Jesus would transition from teaching His disciples through parables to teaching them plainly (25).
 - i. During the earthly ministry of Jesus, He taught in parables and illustrations (25a).
 1. The parable of the corn of wheat (12:24)
 2. The parable of the vine and branches (15:1-8)
 3. The parable of the woman in childbirth (16:1)
 - ii. During the coming era, Jesus would teach His disciples plainly about their relationship with the Father (25b).
 1. The coming era is the church age in which the Holy Spirit continues the ministry of Christ in and through believers.
 2. During this era the Holy Spirit guides believers through the ministry of the Word of God (16:13).
 3. The completed New Testament states plainly the truths that Jesus introduced in parables.
 4. The Holy Spirit's ministry is to teach believers plainly about their relationship with the Father.
 5. Without the ministry of the Holy Spirit, believers are unable to understand the Word (1 Cor. 2:14).
- b. Jesus clarifies further the believer's new way of life in the coming era (26).
 - i. In the new era, believers will pray to the Father in Jesus' name.
 1. Believers become participants in the ministry of Jesus, doing greater works (John 14:12-14).
 2. Believers glorify God by asking in Jesus' name and bearing fruit (15:7-8).
 3. Believers pray directly to the Father in Jesus' name (16:23).
 - ii. In the new era, believers have direct access to the Father.
 1. The ministry of Jesus has restored our relationship with God so that we can boldly approach the Father in the name of Jesus.
 2. As the High Priest, Jesus has prepared the way for us to "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:14-16).
- c. Jesus highlights the Father's love for those who love the Son (27).
 - i. Believers pray confidently because they are confident in their Father's love for them (27a).
 1. God's love for us compelled Him to send His Son to die for us (cf. 3:16).
 2. God's love for us inspires our love for Him (cf. 1 John 4:7-12).
 - ii. Believers enjoy God's love because they have loved the Son (27b-28).
 1. Though God loves the world, only those who love the Son enjoy God's love.
 2. Believers demonstrate their love to Jesus by believing on Him as the only Mediator sent from God.

2. The Misbelief of the Disciples (29-30)

- a. The disciples think they understand and display their ignorance (29).
 - i. The disciples emphatically declare that they already understand; they don't need to wait for the future time when Jesus will teach them plainly about the Father (cf. 25).
 - ii. The disciples are once again overconfident in their ability to grasp Jesus' teachings on their own.
 - iii. They still do not grasp their powerlessness to understand or obey the will of God.
 - iv. They still do not grasp their need for the ministry of the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth.
- b. The disciples claim to understand Jesus' knowledge of all things (30).
 - i. They are overconfident in their knowledge of Who Jesus is.
 - ii. They believe that Jesus came from God, but they're still not fully aware of Jesus mission.

3. The Final Exhortation: "I Have Overcome the World" (31-33)

- a. Jesus responds to their statement of belief with a rebuke (31).
 - i. In order for Jesus to instruct His disciples, He first must expose the inadequacy of their understanding.
 - ii. God often uses questions to probe our own hearts, just as God probed Adam and Job.
- b. Jesus emphatically exposes the shallow faith of the disciples (32).
 - i. In mere moments, every one of the disciples would abandon Him.
 - ii. Yet, Jesus would not be alone, because the Father is with Him.
- c. Jesus summarizes His instructions with a promise of peace in the midst of turmoil (33).
 - i. The purpose for these instructions is not to humiliate us, but to bring us peace.
 1. Though the disciples would not be faithful to Jesus, Jesus would be faithful to them.
 2. Jesus offers peace to those who need it most.

3. Those who are most overconfident in their abilities are the first to crumble in the face of opposition.
 4. Jesus offers peace to whoever is humble enough to take it.
- ii. Jesus promises us affliction in this world.
1. Affliction is a certainty (2 Timothy 3:12).
 2. We can be courageous in the face of affliction because Jesus has overcome the world with its afflictions.
 - a. Jesus' finished work is the basis for our peace and courage.
 - b. Jesus' victory belongs to Him and all Who follow Him.

Conclusion:

1. What do your prayers reveal about your relationship with your Heavenly Father?
2. Are you living in an ever deepening awareness of God's love for you?
3. In what areas have you become overconfident?
4. Are you willing to ask God to reveal the areas in which you are overconfident and unbelieving?
5. If you lack God's peace, are you willing to humble yourself before God so He can give you peace in the midst of turmoil?