

Intro

~ Gladys Aylward displayed peace and courage in the great tribulations she experienced as a missionary in China

Context

~ Jn 16 is the end of the upper room discourse

- This time Jesus spent with his disciples
- If you have a Red Letter bible chapters 13-17 will be for the most part in red because Christ is speaking

~ All the disciples will leave Jesus alone, but he won't be alone because the Father is with him

~ The irony is that Jesus is the one who will receive the short end of the stick here but though he gets the short end of the stick Jesus is still looking out for the disciples' well-being

~ He comforts them with the promise of peace and cheer

~ In Christ there's peace – but in the world there's tribulation

~ Peace and cheer is possible because Jesus has overcome the world

~ Jesus hadn't yet overcome the world – that would take place when he accomplished redemption on the cross

~ On the cross He conquered – sin, devil, flesh

Christ has already spoken of himself being betrayed:

- Christ has already been betrayed by Judas (Jn 13:21-30)
- Christ tells Peter that Peter will deny him (Jn 13:36-38)
- The world hated Christ (Jn 15:18)
- All the disciples will leave Christ and be scattered (Jn 16:32)

~ Jesus has already told his disciples that He's going to go away

~ The reality of the leaving doesn't sink in until Jesus actually leaves

Christ speaks of his departure in:

- Jn 13:31-35 = where I go you cannot come
- Jn 14:1-4 = If I go I will return again
- Jn 14:16 = the Father will give you another comforter
- Jn 14:19 = in a little while the world sees me no more
- Jn 14:28 = If I go away I will return to you
- Jn 15:26 = I will go to the Father and send the Holy Spirit to you
- Jn 16:5 = now I go my way unto him
- Jn 16:16 = in a little while you shall not see me
- Jn 16:22 = though you sorrow I'm going away I will see you again
- Jn 16:28 = I'm leaving the world and going to the Father
- Jn 17:11 = I am no more in the world
- Jn 17:13 = Jesus prays to the Father I'm coming to you

4 key words of this passage

1 Peace – for us from Jesus (in tribulation we need peace because we lose it so easily)

2 Tribulation – we'll experience (we'll all experience tribulation)

3 Cheer – for our experience (

4 Victory – in our experience

Outline

A Guarantee – Tribulation (Certainty)

A Need – Peace (Conditional)

A Motivation – Cheer (Conditional)

A Promise – victory (Certainty)

- ~ What Jesus has said about tribulation and victory are certain
- ~ What Jesus said about peace and cheer depend on us taking advantage of Jesus' offer of peace and believing he has conquered the world
- ~ First of all, what does Jesus do to address men – he speaks to us, he taught and he preached
- ~ When he taught people were astonished at doctrine (Mk 1:22; 11:18); wisdom (Mk 6:2); his words (Mk 10:24);
- ~ The word of God addressed the needs of men and women – so he spoke the word
- ~ George Whitefield, "Congregations are lifeless because dead men preach to them."

Text

1 A Guarantee – Tribulation (Certainty)

- ~ A guarantee in this world - tribulation
- ~ Tribulation (thlip'-sis) From G2346; pressure (literally or figuratively): - afflicted, (-tion), anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble.
- ~ Alford - This θλίψις is not only persecution from the world, but trouble, inward distress, while we are in the world
- ~ Paul spoke of his tribulations in the churches he wrote to (Eph 3:13; Phil 1:16, 4:14; Col 1:24; 1 Th 3:3; 6-7)
- ~ Tribulation is something we all experience.
- ~ We live in a fallen world
- ~ We all experience tribulation because of the fall in the garden of Eden
- ~ There's tribulation every person experiences as a result of living on earth (sickness, broken relationships, sins, temptation, discouragement)
- ~ There's tribulation that comes as a result of faithful service to God (opposition from the enemy, the devil uses people, the work of God is opposed)
- ~ Paul had both types of opposition in 2 Cor 11
- ~ The context of tribulation is Jesus is going to be leaving them and they'll be alone without their leader, teacher and friend
- ~ Tribulation is a guarantee
- ~ George Whitefield encountered tribulation from preaching the gospel. He was mocked, had songs written about him, and things thrown at him
- ~ Jonathan Edwards was fired from the church he pastored through the "Great Awakening."
- ~ John Bunyan was imprisoned for preaching the word. While he was imprisoned he wrote his classic "Pilgrim's Progress."
- ~ Charles Spurgeon the "Prince of Preachers" struggled with discouragement
- ~ Matthew Henry got married in 1687. His wife died in childbirth although his daughter survived. He remarried in 1690. He and his wife had 9 children. Three of the girls died in their first year
- ~ The apostle Paul (2 Cor 11:23-33)

Rom 12:12 Be patient in tribulation

Rm 5:3 we glory in tribulation because tribulation works patience

Rom 8:35 Tribulation can't separate us from the love of God

2 Cor 1:4 God comforts us in all our tribulation

2 Cor 1:8 Paul wants the Corinthians to know about the trouble he faced

2 Cor 2:4 Paul wrote to the Corinthians from a heart filled with anguish

2 Cor 4:17 Our light afflictions but for a moment

Peace is offered to us, but tribulation is promised!

2 A Need – Peace (Conditional)

~ Our need in tribulation is for Peace

~ Thayer – 1) a state of national tranquility, 1a) exemption from the rage and havoc of war; 2) peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord; 3) security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous); 4) of the Messiah's peace; 4a) the way that leads to peace (salvation); 5) of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is; 6) the blessed state of devout and upright men after death

- Key words are assured, nothing to fear, content with its earthly lot

~ it means to keep on that ye may keep on having peace in me," even when I am put to death

~ The important thing is that this peace that Jesus offers in him

- In 14:27 *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

~ Jesus gives us an example of peace in Mk 4:35-41. Jesus was at peace in the storm while the disciples were faithfulness and thought they were going to die (Matt 8:25). Jesus spoke and said "peace."

~ Though Jesus calmed the stormy sea God often allows trials & tribulation to remain in our lives – we need peace

~ We have positional peace (Rom 5:1)

~ We have experiential peace (Phil 4:7; Col 3:15) in the storms of life

~ Jesus says this peace is made available to us during the tribulations we face

~ Our peace is in Christ in tribulations

~ The reason we don't experience peace in trials is we don't rest in Christ

~ Guzik - Knowing that Jesus has overcome the world brings us good cheer. It is the foundation for our peace in Him. We see that Jesus is in control, we see that although He leaves He does not abandon, we see that He loves, and we see that the victory is His. We can be of good cheer indeed!

~ Jesus is the one who will be abandoned but the disciples are the ones who will need peace

Jesus made the offer of peace because the disciples would need it

Jesus offers us peace because we need it

~ Oak Ridge Boys (In the Shelter of His Arms)

When my soul was disturbed with sorrow

When My heart was burdened with sin

Jesus opened His arms of mercy

And tenderly took me in

There is peace in the time of trouble

There is peace in the midst of the storm

There is peace though the world be raging

In the shelter of His arms

3 A Motivation – Cheer (Conditional)

~ We have a motivation from God for our tribulations – it's courage

~ Cheer (2293 tharseo) Imperative active from tharsos, courage (Act_28:15). A word for courage in the face of danger, only here in John, but see Mat_9:2, Mat_9:22; Mar_10:49.

~ Jesus closed this discourse with a word of encouragement. The Greek word tharseo, translated "take courage" or "take heart," is one that only Jesus used in the New Testament (cf. Mat_9:2; Mat_9:22; Mat_14:27; Mar_6:50; Mar_10:49; Joh_16:33; Act_23:11). Jesus was the great encourager. The Holy Spirit continues His ministry in us today. Constable

~ Perfect active indicative of nikaō, to be victorious, to conquer. Always of spiritual victory in the N.T. See 1Jn_5:4.

- Perfect – The perfect tense in Greek is used to describe a completed action which produced results which are still in effect all the way up to the present.
- Active – Jesus produces the victory
- Indicative – A statement of fact

~ This majestic proclamation of victory over death may be compared with tetelestai (It is finished) in Joh_19:30 as Christ died and with Paul's hupernikōmen (we are more than conquerors) in Rom_8:37.

- ~ From G3529; to subdue (literally or figuratively): - conquer, overcome, prevail, get the victory.
- ~ The root of this word is “nike” from 2529, which means conquest, the means of success
- ~ This word is used 28 times. All but 6 of the occurrences appear in the book of Revelation

- ~ This word is used in the gospels and once in Acts where Jesus told Paul to be of good cheer
 1. Matt 9:2 (Mk 2:1-12) Your sins are forgiven (the man was lowered through the roof needed forgiveness)
 2. Matt 9:18-22 (Lk 8:48) Your faith has made you whole (woman whose blood was always hemorrhaging)
 3. Matt 14:27 (Mk 6:50; Jn 6:14-21) During storms and things fear (when Jesus came to disciples in storm)
 4. Mark 10:46-52 (49) When we need help and others discourage us (when Jesus healed blind Bartimaeus)
 5. Jn 16:33 – Tribulation
 6. Acts 23:11 When alone, discouraged (Paul was discouraged about his ministry)

- ~ As we go through tribulation we have the peace of God and the next thing we need is courage
- ~ We can know God is faithful, trustworthy, and sovereign but something we need to go forward is courage to act on behalf of what we know about God
- ~ Courage is needed for great tasks
- ~ Moses and the Lord both told Joshua to be of good courage
- ~ So often we’re tempted to throw our arms up in the air and quit but we must not lose courage
- ~ The reason for cheer and to be of good cheer - Jesus has overcome the world

4 A Promise – victory (Certainty)

- ~ In this, Jesus proclaims the truth of His victory. It’s an amazing statement from a man about to be arrested, forsaken, rejected, mocked, tortured and executed. Judas, the religious authorities, Pilate, the crowd, the soldiers or even death and the grave cannot overcome Him. Instead, Jesus can truly say, “I have overcome the world.” Guzik
- ~ The means of this victory is Jesus not ourselves
- ~ As long as we’re yoked up to Jesus we can live in that victory

Our victory comes from Christ:

- ~ Jn 12:31; 16:11 – the prince of this world is cast out
- ~ Christ defeated death in his resurrection
- ~ Romans 6 – Christ has defeated sin
- ~ Col 2:15 Christ spoiled principalities and powers
- ~ Heb 2:14 Christ defeated Satan who had the power of death
- ~ Rev 12:11 The tribulation martyrs overcome by their testimony, blood of the lamb and they didn’t love their lives unto the end

Christ has overcome the world and we can have overcome as well – how?

- ~ 1 Jn 3:8 Christ has destroyed the works of the devil
- ~ 1Jn_4:4 We’ve overcome because Christ is in us
- ~ 1 Jn_5:4 Our faith overcome the world

Conclusion

- ~ We’re all facing some sort of trouble in our lives
- ~ Christ is offering us peace for these trials. These trials are difficult when we face and fight them in our strength
- ~ On a couple of different occasion we had cars given to us for free – no strings attached – I took that offer
- ~ Jesus is making us an offer of peace for our trials – will we take it?
- ~ We can take that offer because of the certainty that Jesus has conquered this world and its trials
- ~ If we take that offer we’ll have and peace and then we can be courageous to go forward in faith