



Day 3

Peace

Silence (2 minutes) Take some time to be quiet, to calm down, and to listen. What has God been teaching you? What are the next steps He wants you to take? How is your spirit doing?

Scripture *I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.* John 16:33

Discussion The above verse comes at the end of extensive teaching by Jesus at the Last Supper gathering. Jesus washed the disciples' feet, predicted His betrayal, and taught about being the only way to the Father. He taught them about His close identity with the Father, the Holy Spirit, abiding in Jesus, being hated by the world, and His need to leave them. After teaching the disciples about how the world will hate them Jesus says, *"All this I have told you so that you will not go astray...I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you"* (Jn. 16:1-4). A little later Jesus says regarding the Holy Spirit, *"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth..."* (Jn. 16:12-13). The disciples say they understand, *"Now You are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we can see that You know all things and that You do not even need to have anyone ask You questions. This makes us believe that You came from God."* (Jn. 16:29-30). Jesus responds by saying very soon they will abandon Him. That is when Jesus says today's verse, *"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* Surely the disciples were overwhelmed by all Jesus told them. How much did they really grasp at that time? And this is before their rollercoaster experiences of Jesus' arrest, execution, and resurrection! Jesus' teaching is serious and we need to live it out seriously, though we may not understand it completely. We too will experience significant trials in life. It will be difficult. But, Jesus has overcome the world. He loves us and wants us to be prepared. In Him we have peace. In believing in, knowing, belonging to, talking with, listening to, and following Jesus we have peace. He has given us the Holy Spirit to remind us of His words and *"...the Father Himself loves you because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from the Father."* (Jn. 16:27). *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am."* (Jn. 14:1-3).

Application Consider what Jesus means when He says "I have overcome the world." As Christians, we can know for sure that Christ's wish for us is to dwell in the knowledge that Christ's ultimate victory has bought for us not only peace with God, but also peace for us today as we walk through the trials of this life. Take an extra 5-10 minutes at some point during the day to think about the peace of Christ and what this means in your immediate context. This could be at work, at home, or even during an errand.

Prayer Jesus, thank You that I have peace in You. I praise You that You came from the Father, died for my sin, took up Your life again, and returned to the Father. Thank You for so many blessings. Thank You that I can know You, that in You I have peace. Thank You that You are preparing a place for me and You will come get me. Thank You, Father, that You also love me. Thank You, Holy Spirit, that You live in me and remind me of Jesus' words. I praise You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I love You. Amen.

Silence (2 minutes) Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

Scripture memory for the week: *You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal.* Isaiah 26:3-4