

The Final Days of Jesus  
**SORROW TO VICTORY**

Monday, March 23

Reading: John 16:23-33

**John 16:33** *"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."*

As they made their way to the garden, the disciples' sorrow continued to grow. Jesus knew His disciples needed a new attitude if they were to face the challenges ahead.

**SORROW TURNED TO JOY (16:16-22)** – While their sorrow would be temporary; their joy would be the eternal joy of the Spirit.

**JOY TURNED TO TRUST (16:23-28)** – This new-found joy would lead to a stronger faith in the Savior. Their questions and fear would be gone and they would bring their concerns directly to the Father in prayer, knowing that He will hear and answer.

**TRUST TURNED TO VICTORY (16:29-33)** - The light bulb has finally turned on in the disciples' minds. But Jesus knows this confidence will not last long. In only a few hours, they will scatter in fear. He also knew that their faith, though shaken, would not completely fail. Though from the human perspective, Jesus would face the cross alone, He knew that the Father was with Him. The faith the disciples had in Christ would give them peace even in the midst of the struggles they would face after His ascension. Jesus did not promise that all their troubles would disappear. Just the opposite was true. Because of their hatred of Christ and ignorance of the Father, the world would persecute them. But Christ encourages them that they don't have to lose heart for "I have overcome the world!"

**LESSON ONE:** "Ask and You Will Receive." Jesus gives three reasons God will hear the believers' prayers:

- (1) Because we ask in Christ's name. Remember, to pray in Jesus' name is to make requests that Jesus would be pleased to answer and are in accordance with the Father's will.
- (2) Because the Father loves us. When we love Christ and accept Him as Lord and Savior we become God's beloved children and He is pleased to answer our prayers.
- (3) Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Jesus came into the world to do the Father's will and pay the price to redeem us. This was about to be a completed and Jesus would return to the Father. It is because of the death and resurrection of Jesus that this new relationship to the Father is possible. How is your prayer life? Is it vibrant or do your prayers seem to "bounce off the ceiling?" Read over these verses again to build a new excitement in prayer.

**LESSON TWO:** "I Have Overcome the World." Jesus' victory came through a seeming defeat. His death on the cross secured His victory over Satan, sin, and death. In this world of trouble, we can have peace because He has "overcome the world." The Apostle Paul said, "We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37). How have you experienced victory in your Christian life? What "troubles" in your life has God used for His glory? Read 1 Corinthians 15:57; 1 John 4:4; Romans 8:35-39).