**Series: What Jesus Would Say**

*VBC*

*Pastor John Johnson*

*John 16:16-33*

*Nov 30-Dec 1, 2013*

**“The Confidence We May Be Missing”**

I once read that there are two great moments in golf--

-the first time you play—and the time *last* you play

*-I have personally found this to be true*

-part of the reason is that some say the golf swing is the most complex motion in sports

*-I’ll take a tennis racquet any day*

-that there are fourteen clubs in a golf bag explains the problem

-each one requires a different motion

-and there are a hundred points in a swing that can go wrong

-and that’s before you are out in the elements—trees, wind, sand traps, lakes, other people, tarantulas

-a perfect swing is about as *elusive* as a perfect game

-the gospel of John portrays Jesus this way—as elusive

-AS HARD TO GET A HANDLE ON

-He makes statements that are ambiguous—18 times

-He allows the crowds to find Him only when He is ready to reveal Himself

-even when He allows some, like Nicodemus, to find Him, His conversation proves to be opaque, obscure to one’s understanding

-we see the same thing in the upper room—the disciples have lots of questions—but the answers often seem to elude them—as we see in this last conversation—r*ead verses 16-18*

-on the surface—Jesus’ announcement is elusive, vague—but like the others—the truth is there for those who are listening

-Jesus has been telling them this for some time—

-7:33—I am only with you for a short while

-8:21—I’m going away

-and just in case the disciples missed it—He told them 7 more times in the upper room—

-13:33—I am with you a little while longer

-14:2—I am going away

-14:19—in a little while the world will see Me no longer

-14:28—you have heard Me tell you I am going away

-14:31—I am going away

-16:5—But now I am going away—and says it again here in verse 16

-maybe the words did not register because the disciples refused to accept them—*lived in a kind of denial*

APPLICATION—we sometimes ignore words we don’t like to hear

 *-since you going to the garage, can you take out the trash?*

 *-the dog just threw up*

*-there’s a noise downstairs—I think it is mice*

*-there’s a telemarketer on the phone for you*

-Jesus keeps repeating Himself—but the disciples refuse to hear

-He is supposed to remain—TAKE OVER—not leave—*not be take out!*

-leaving only left them vulnerable—confused

-which is hard when you live in no-man’s land—for that’s where followers of Jesus live

*-we come to Christ and suddenly find ourselves living between two worlds, two kingdoms*

a. somewhere between the physical world we have been born into

b. and the spiritual world Christ we have been reborn into

-we live at the intersection where both of these worlds meet—one foot on each of these moving platelets

1. we live at the crossroads between good and evil
2. we stand between victory and final victory

c. we find ourselves caught in the crossfire between a cosmic struggle between the kingdom of Light and the kingdom of darkness

 -we discover that any attempt to live a God centered life is met with great resistance

 -this triad of world, flesh, and devil conspire to resist the rulership of God—it is all out spiritual war!

 -so it follows life will be a mix of victory and defeat—struggle and rest—good news and bad news

-this discourse in the upper room is about preparing them (and us) for this—

a. the BAD news—where He is going we cannot go—13:33

 -the GOOD news—where He is going we will eventually go—Jesus has prepared an eternity for us—14:2

b. the BAD news—He has been sold out—betrayed by a world in the hands of the evil one—13:18

 -the GOOD news—the ruler of this world has been judged—has no power over Jesus—14:30

c. the BAD news—in a little while, Jesus’ earthly ministry is ending—16:5

-the GOOD news—in a little while, the Spirit is coming to replace and continue Jesus’ ministry

d. the BAD news—we will have to wait for God’s future

 -the GOOD news—the Spirit is coming to bring something of God’s future into the present, giving us a foretaste now

e. the BAD news—Jesus will soon be on trial

 -the GOOD news—it is really the world that is on trial—16:8-11

Here in this final conversation in John 16—the same pattern continues—

f. the BAD news—Jesus is leaving this world—16:16

 -the GOOD news—He is coming back

g. the BAD news—in this life, we will face intense pain, like a woman in child birth—16:20-21

 -read verse 20—“you will weep and wail”

 -the GOOD news—the joy of new birth will transcend any pain of the past

 -there will be the birth of a whole new life—a whole new world in Christ will be born

h. the BAD news—this all raises a lot of questions

 -the GOOD news—one day, you will no longer need to ask any questions —“In that day you will not ask Me anything”—16:23a

i. the BAD news—prayer does not seem to accomplish much

 -the good news—prayer that is in step with Jesus’ mission, authority, and will accomplish much

 -verse 24—“Ask and you will receive”—our prayers will serve the activity of the Spirit

j. the BAD news—Jesus has had to dumb down the language to be understood, speaking in parables and riddles and metaphors—16:25

 -the GOOD news—after the cross, resurrection, and ascension it will make sense—16:26-28

k. the BAD news—we will be hated by the world

 -the GOOD news—we are loved by God—16:27

l. the GOOD news—the disciples get it

-verse 29—“Now You are speaking plainly”

-the BAD news—they really don’t—verse 31

m. the BAD news—Jesus’ followers will cave in and abandon Jesus

-16:32—“An hour is coming—each of you will be scattered”

-the GOOD news—the Father remains with Jesus—16:32

-the irony is that they feared Jesus was abandoning them

*-but it is they who will desert Jesus—it is Jesus who is left alone*

-all of this sets up the final verse—*read verse 33*

n. the BAD news—in the world, you will have troubles—16:33a

-people who hate God will express their enmity against God’s people

-the GOOD news—in Christ, you have peace

o. the BAD news—the world will work to defeat us—16:33b

-the powers of darkness are bent on our destruction

-they will do all they can to create fear and stress and disorder

-the GOOD news—Jesus has overcome the world and given us the victory

SO*—when we face persistent sin, doubts, fears, depression, anxiety, misplaced desires, bitterness, spiritual attack*

-stand your ground—stay on your feet—DON’T CAVE IN!

-Jesus has OVERCOME—a tense that describes *past action with ongoing results*

-think of it as four successive moves—that amount to four reasons to STAND FIRM—

*1. IN CHRIST’S COMING—EVIL WAS DEFIED*

-from the moment Jesus came to this world—He served notice on evil

*-when He appeared on earth—it amounted to a daring raid*

-He went out into the wilderness at the beginning on the offense—to challenge Satan and establish His authority

-this is why—in Matt 12:29, Jesus likened His coming to Someone entering a strong man’s house, tying him up, and carrying off his possessions—i.e. release his captives

-when He announced His kingdom—Satan began to fall (Lk 10:18)

-whenever He interfaced with demons—He set them to flight

-these were all preliminary victories—that foreshadow that to some

-declare an old world is losing its grip

*2. IN CHRIST’S DEATH—EVIL WAS DISARMED*

-the Cross was the great reversal—what looked at the moment as a defeat was a profound victory

-on the eve of His death—Jesus declared—“*NOW the ruler of this world will be thrown out”—*John 12:31

-his presence remains— but he no longer enjoys supremacy or ultimate power over us

-Colossians 2:15 says that when Jesus died on the Cross—the powers of darkness were disarmed, stripped, degraded

-He discarded them as rags—and they lost their ability to hold people in bondage

-having paid the price for sin—Jesus destroyed Satan’s most critical work—condemnation

-Rom 8:1—“*there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”*

-in His death, we are no longer under sin’s power—Jesus has set us free from sin’s grip

-Col 1:13—He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us in to the kingdom of the Son

Point—Jesus has OVERCOME

-the world no longer has power over us

-the flesh with its crippling attitudes and habits and addictive behaviors has been defused

-the adversary no longer has the authority to exert compelling influence over people claimed by Christ

-rather—*we* now have authority over him—James 4:7

*3. IN CHRIST’S RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION—EVIL WAS DISGRACED*

-for when Jesus entered heaven, He paraded the powers in a triumphal procession, making them a “public spectacle”—Ephesians 4:8; Colossians 2:15

-exposing them as utterly helpless—cf Romans 8:38-9; I Corinthians 15:24-28

*4. IN CHRIST’S RETURN—EVIL’S PRESENCE WILL BE DELETED*

-removed from ever being in our life again

So why do we struggle? Why do we still experience so much attack? If He has overcome—why am I living defeated?

a. we live somewhere between 3 and 4

-and even though the outcome has been determined—Satan has not conceded defeat

-overthrown—he is not yet eliminated—we still live in a fierce war zone

*-he still prowls about as a roaring lion—I Peter 5:8*

1. when we ignore this—there are unnecessary casualties

c. therefore we must fight the good fight—resist the devil, take on Christ’s armor—Ephesians 6:10-19

-it is a fight of perpetual necessity—admitting of no breathing time—no armistice—no truce

-either resist or become a casualty

CONCLUSION

John Piper said it well—

-on any given day—we stand in this middle ground

-we can smell the smoke of hell on one side

-and feel the crisp breezes of heaven on the other

-in the midst of it all—stand firm

-are you standing firm, courageous, enjoying His victory?

-or caving in—yielding to your base appetites

-giving in to anger and bitterness

-giving in to the devil’s lies that he has any authority?