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CAPITOL® COMMISSION

Gospel Hope & Spiritual Strength for Government Leaders

Love, Faith, Hope

John 16:25-33

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Beginning of Session Note: As we return to our study of the life of Christ in the gospel of John, I want to reorient us to where we are. We are picking up where we left off at the conclusion of last session – the end of chapter sixteen. The events of this section take place on the evening before Jesus is arrested and crucified.

Jesus has spent the evening preparing His disciples for His death, His resurrection, and His leaving them. He knew that they were going to struggle with these events, and He wanted to prepare them so that through these events their faith would be validated, and they would be strengthened and prepared for life without Him.

Introduction: Life is often hard. We all face difficulties to one extent or another. After reading incredible stories of human survival we marvel at the human spirit. What enables us to endure difficulties?

There are three ideals that have great impact on our well-being and ability to cope in this life: love, faith, and hope. Knowing that someone loves us unconditionally is a powerful force in our lives. Having a person who knows us well (the good, bad, and ugly) and still loves us provides so much comfort, peace, and strength.

Trust, or faith, is also critical to our well-being. Knowing that there is something we can count on is crucial. A child with a parent that they know will always be there for them is much better equipped to cope and succeed in life. Without hope people often give up. With hope, a person can endure incredible things.

In Jesus' last teaching to His disciples before His arrest and crucifixion we find these three themes.

John 16:25-33 - 25 "These things I have spoken to you in figures of speech; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech, but will tell you openly of the Father. 26 On that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; 27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father. 28 I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father."

29 His disciples said, "Behold, now You are speaking openly and are not using a figure of speech. 30 Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God." 31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? 32 Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33 These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

- **Love: verses 25-27a**

As Jesus begins to close out His teaching to His disciples, He reminds them of all that He has taught them ("these things" v 25). What He has spoken to them has been veiled (figures of speech) for a few reasons. He had often taught in parables which were designed to not be fully understood by all who were listening.

The disciples' own background hindered their understanding as well. He had told them many times that He had to die, but they could not comprehend this. They believed Him to be the Messiah, and in their mind the Messiah was a conquering hero. They expected Jesus to liberate the nation from Rome and set up His divine kingdom on earth. There was no room in that view for Him to die.

In addition, some things that Jesus had told the disciples they just could not grasp until they experienced them. The fact that He would rise from the dead was something they would more fully understand after the fact.

While their understanding was veiled at this point, Jesus assured them that an hour was coming when they would understand and

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things would be made plain. The hour Jesus referred to was when the Holy Spirit would come and lead them into all truth. After Jesus' death and resurrection, and with the help of the Spirit, the disciples would be able to make sense of all that Jesus had told them. They would then write all of this down in the twenty-seven books of the New Testament.

When that day came, they would have personal access to the father. During Jesus' ministry the disciples relied on Him for everything. As Jews they were used to having priests mediate between them and God. God was seen as separate and unapproachable. There was a veil in the temple separating the Holy of Holies. No one had access except the high priest once a year.

At the cross the veil was torn in two. Direct access to God was now possible. The disciples would not need Jesus or anyone else to mediate for them with God. They would have direct access to God as a father. God loved them as His children, and they would have an intimate relationship with Him.

How would this be possible? Because they loved Jesus. Their love for Jesus was a sign of their belief in Him. Their belief in who Jesus was placed them in God's family just as it does those who repent of their sin and believe in Jesus for their salvation today. Have you done that? If so, YOU do not need a mediator. You have direct, personal, access to a heavenly Father who loves you. That knowledge should shape your life.

- **Faith: v 27b-32**

Not only did Jesus tell His disciples that the Father loved them, but He also affirmed their faith. "And have believed that I came forth from the Father." He explained again that He had come from the Father into the world and was going to return to the Father (God). These verses take us back to John's prologue in Chapter One.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God."… "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

To this the disciples declared that they understood, and this point was not veiled to them. Jesus' knowledge was something they had experienced many times. He knew their questions before they could ask them. This demonstration of His knowledge was one of the bases for their belief in Him. No one but God could know the things that Jesus did.

Jesus affirmed their belief yet showed His supernatural knowledge again by revealing that He knew that they would abandon Him in a few hours when He would be arrested.

What comfort they must have taken when they looked back and realized what had transpired. Jesus had affirmed their faith, weak as it was, even though He knew that they would falter. Their faith must have soared at this realization. Their faith was in someone who not only loved them, but also someone they could put their full trust in. Do you have faith like that?

- **Hope: v 33**

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

Jesus ends His final teaching to the disciples before He is arrested and crucified with hope. He knew they were anxious and troubled over some of the things He had told them. They were facing something that they did not fully understand, and losing Jesus terrified them.

Jesus had told them what was going to happen and had affirmed their faith and the Father's love for them. They could have peace "in Him."

They were to take courage and have hope, because He had overcome the world. The cross and Jesus' victory over sin and death was still future to them, but it was determined by God and was already accomplished. The world is full of sin and hardship, but we have hope because Jesus has already overcome it. We can have peace and Joy in this life because of the faith, love, and hope we have in Jesus.

Bible Studies:

7:00 am Tuesday: Bible Study – Governor's Large Conference Room – Open to All: Legislators, Constitutional Officers, Lobbyists, Staff

8:00 pm Wednesday: Legislator Only Bible Study – Red Rosa (small conference room)