

**John 16:16-33****10-18-09****“4 Words on which to Hang your Hopes!”****I. INTRO:**

- A. **Aryanna Caligiuri** - Edge(cross cultural studies); El Disneo(gathering place, art gallery)
- B. **Prayer:** Job 26:14 **Indeed these are the mere edges/fringes of His(God's) ways, And how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?**
- C. How do you brace yourself to **face life** *without* the one you love? How can **sorrow** really be turned into **joy**? If we're promised **tribulation**, how can we **be of good cheer**?
1. Let's find **4 words** to hang our **Hopes** on: **Joy, Love, Faith, Peace**.
    - a) *Sorrow to Joy; Access from Love; Knowledge to Faith; Tribulation to Peace.*
  2. **Hope** - A man approached a little league baseball game one afternoon. He asked a boy in the dugout what the score was. The boy responded, "18 to nothing, we're behind." "Boy," said the spectator, "I'll bet you're discouraged." "Why should I be discouraged?" replied the little boy. "We haven't even gotten up to bat yet!"

**II. 4 WORDS ON WHICH TO HANG YOUR HOPES!**

- A. **SORROW TO JOY!** (16-24)
- B. Explanation Overview:  
 "You **won't** see me anymore" - refers to his **death**, which will bring about **great grief**.  
 "You **will** see me again" - refers to his **resurrection**, which will bring about **great joy**.
- C. **Example:** To illust **how** their **sorrow** will turn to **joy**, Jesus refers to a woman giving birth.
- D. (19) They had talked the matter over among **themselves** w/o consulting or asking **Him**.  
 1. **Wow, how often do we do that?** - Yet still, He *knows*, He is *aware*, He *cares*.
- E. (20) The Lord does not **replace** our sorrow with joy; He **transforms** our sorrow into joy!  
 1. The same baby that gives the mother **pain** also brings her **joy**.
- F. (21) **Some of you might take the as soon as to task!** But "soon" you do get over it...otherwise mommy's wouldn't ever have a second child!
- G. (22) **He wants to clarify that this isn't the end of their relationship.**  
 1. **Just as a violent thunderstorm turns the desert into a bed of wildflowers, so the sorrowful storm to pass over the disciples would bloom joy in abundance.**  
 2. But this flower has deeper roots (read 23,24).

- a) It isn't like some flowers, *here today, gone tomorrow*. It is permanent & complete, a fully blossomed flower.
3. Ps.30:5b **Weeping** may endure for a night, **But joy** comes in the morning.
- H. (23) *In that day you will ask Me nothing* - What day? Why nothing?
1. *In that day* probably refers to the day when the Spirit would come and begin His ministry among them.<sup>1</sup>
  2. While Christ **was on earth**, the disciples were accustomed to taking their questions & needs to Him personally.
  3. When Christ **returned to heaven**, He sent the Spirit to *assist them* in their praying (Rom. 8:26–27), & *instructed them* to pray to the Father personally.
  4. Bible prayer is **to the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit**.
    - a) It will not be necessary for **Christ** to beg the **Father** on **our behalf** (26) **because** the **Father** is willing to answer **our requests** (27).
- I. (24) Among those who served in the court of Alexander the Great was **a famous philosopher** who had outstanding ability but little money. He asked Alexander for financial help and was told he could draw whatever cash he needed from the imperial treasury. **When** he submitted to the treasurer a request for an amount equal to \$50,000, he was promptly refused. The treasurer had to verify that such a large sum was indeed authorized. **But** when he asked Alexander, the ruler replied, *“Pay the money at once. The philosopher has done me a singular honor: By the largeness of his request he shows that he has understood both my **wealth** and **generosity**.”*
1. **Be Large in your request:** **for** your own personal generosity towards others; **to** live the **missional life**(missionary lifestyle); **for** your own character transformation; **to** encounter God daily; **to** grow a **merciful heart** towards others. **Pray Large!**
- J. **C. S. Lewis:** Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but **too weak**. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink & sex and ambition, when **infinite joy** is offered to us, **like** an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in the slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.
- K. **ACCESS TO LOVE!** (25-29)
- L. (26,27) The coming new day would give the disciples **direct personal intimate access** to the Father through Jesus.
1. **Jesus would no longer need to pray on-their-behalf, they could ask for themselves**
    - a) This truth doesn't negate the promise of Christ's intercessory work.

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<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe; Outlines of the NT; Jn.16:23.

2. The disciples were now in a personal **love-and-faith** relationship with the Father. **Only children have this privilege of access to their Father.**
- Wow, someone up there likes me!** - Being assured of **God's love** does wonders to keep us going. It keep us mentally/emotionally/spiritually whole.
  - It's **spiritual adrenaline**. It supplies us with **reserves of encouragement**.

M. (28) **Jesus summarized His mission in one sentence:**  
**His Incarnation** (I came forth from the Father),  
**His Humiliation** (and have come into the world), **and**  
**His Res, Ascension, & Exaltation** (again I leave the world and go to the Father)

N. **KNOWLEDGE TO FAITH!** (30,31)

O. **Faith & knowledge** are connected throughout Scripture.

- Our **faith** in the Lord **directly influences** our growth in **knowledge**.

P. **TRIBULATION TO PEACE!** (32,33)

Q. (32) **What does that mean for you & I when those closest to us abandon us in our greatest time of need?** - We are not alone!

R. (33) **The Bad news & the Glad news!** [2 opposing spheres, in which they/we live!]

S. **You will have tribulation!**

- Mosquitos are said to bite **strangers** more than **natives**.

T. The believers 2-fold **Life: In Christ & in the world**.

The believers 2-fold **Experience: In Christ peace; & in the World tribulation**.

The believers 2-fold **Secret: The Fact, I have overcome & the Feeling, be of good cheer.**<sup>2</sup>

U. **I have overcome the world - Really? I look around and...really? Overcome what?**

- Victory over a moral & spiritual world of evil.** When you & I see **through** the external **to** the **internal & spiritual**, we recognize Jesus as **the greatest conqueror in history**. **I have overcome this present world-system!**

- He overcame the **world's flatteries** [from **satan**(if you're the Son of God...), **or men** (when they were going to take Him by force to make Him king, Jn.6:15)]
- He overcame the **world's hostilities** (all they could get from him in the end was **"Father forgive them..."**)

<sup>2</sup> Griffith Thomas; John; pg. 218.

- c) He overcame the *world's principles* (principles like...never using His power for selfish ends; or modify His message to avoid opposition)
  - d) He overcame the *world's prince* (From the *wilderness* to the final wrestle in Gethsemane, "*the prince of this world has nothing in Me*"...Lucifer had met his **waterloo!**)
2. Who comes to mind of one who conquered the world? *Alexander the Great.*
    - a) **Yet**, he died prematurely, in a drunken state of debauchery.
      - (1) **Alex** was overcome **by the world!**
    - b) The true victor & hero is the man who overcomes *the world within himself.*
      - (1) How are you doing with the world **charming** you?  
With its **self-seeking**? With its **prejudices**? With its **evil genius**?
  3. **Satan** has usurped a *temporarily permitted power* over men, & has organized the world of mankind upon the principles of *force, greed, selfishness, ambition, & pleasure.*
    - a) He has organized it so as **to push God out**, & to keep men's minds chained for mundane things. *The world is anything that shuts God out.*
- V. In the next few hours, the disciples would watch their world *fall apart*, & yet Jesus assured them that **He was the winner!**
1. I have overcome the world is a **fact**, not a *promise*. (note: have, not will)
    - a) The force of this verb indicates *a continuing victory!*
  2. It also applies to **us** today, (1 Jn.5:4,5) **for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. [We are overcomers through Him]**
  3. **Q: Is your world coming apart at the seams?**  
Remember, **you win** (By obtaining: His **Joy**, His **Love**, His **Faith**, His **Peace**.)  
**He wins** (Having obtained the Victory!)

If God made your cup **sweet**...drink it **w/Grace**.

If God made your cup **bitter**...drink it **in communion w/Him**.

As a third-century man was anticipating death, he penned these last words to a friend: "It's a bad world, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people are the Christians—and I am one of them."