

Take Heart!

John 16:25-33

I. In John 16:31-32, Jesus warns the disciples of an impending crisis; but in verse 33, He tells them to, “Take heart” because He has overcome the world.

- A. The Greek word translated “take heart” in John 16:33 is “*tharseo*”—“properly bolstered within, which supports unflinching courage—literally to radiate warm confidence” (Helps Word Studies).
- B. In John 16, Jesus is warning His disciples of His impending departure; but not one of them thought there was going to be a hideous crucifixion (John 16:28-30). Perhaps they were thinking of a glorious exit and their future reign with Him on the earth.
- C. Very few things in life are more terrifying than to think something is going to be good for you, and then it turns into a nightmare. Jesus’ answer for them and for us is, “Take heart (be of good courage)! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33; Romans 8:28).

II. “Taking heart” means to be brave in your actions despite the fear that is assailing you. It is believing the voice that says, “God is with you” (Immanuel) and God is “for you” (Romans 8:31-39). Therefore, you are free to respond in faith according to God’s direction.

- A. Joshua took heart and was able to lead Israel to her destiny. Joshua succeeded where others would have failed because of the courage that was within him.
- B. All Joshua needed to inherit the Promised Land was the promise of God and the courage within. The promise: Joshua 1:1-5; the courage: Joshua 1:6-9
 - 1. The promise (Joshua 1:1-5)
 - 2. The courage (Joshua 1:6-9)
- C. Mary and Joseph also had the promise and the courage (Luke 1:37-38).

III. Practical helps for “taking heart”

- A. Do not let the spirit of fear run free in your life, because it has unhealthy friends. The spirit of fear makes us deaf and stupid. The Spirit of God gives us power, love, and self-discipline (Soundness of mind, moderations, and self-control—Thayer’s) (II Timothy 1:7).
- B. Let the Spirit fill you with the Father’s love so you can see the Father as Jesus did (Romans 8:14-17, 28). Remember all the breakthroughs you have already received.
- C. Receive courage by receiving God’s Presence in worship and prayer (Psalm 27:1-14).
 - 1. David’s sling and his harp came from the same heart (Psalm 27:13-14).
 - 2. Notice “take heart” in Psalm 27:14, and Jesus’ advice “Take heart!” (John 16:33).
- D. The confident lifestyle of walking with God in a spirit of generosity (Psalm 112:1-10; Luke 6:37-38)

*Mike Hudgins
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