



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Facing Trouble in the World
Speaker: A. Redd Sevilla, Launch Pastor of New Life East
Scripture: John 16:16-20, 30-33

Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. (v.16-20)

Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

"Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

"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." (v.30-33)

John 16:16-20, 30-33 (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

In this passage of scripture, we find Jesus speaking with the disciples. He is giving them a foreshadowing and prediction of the persecution and hate he will experience. Jesus also talks about the disciples becoming part of a fragmented community and experiencing loss and grief. The reaction of the disciples was one of resistance, as they were in a heightened sense of anxiety upon hearing that their great leader was leaving. The disciples were feeling fearful about what the future would hold for them.

Jesus came and spoke these words to his followers and still speaks these words to us. Jesus' words still ring true for us today. Our world is in a state of chaos, disorientation and unrest. We are anxious about the rising spread of COVID in our city and nation, experiencing economic hardships, feeling outraged by the continued racial injustice we see happening and trying to make sense of the political uncertainty and turmoil.

Where or with what have you placed your trust in when it comes to troubles you may be facing in your own life or troubles that you see happening in the world? When it comes to finances, are you trusting in your job or your spouse's job? In light of the COVID spread, are you trusting in CDC protocols? When it comes to racial unrest, do you trust in protests or the justice system? Do you trust in the Church when there is political uncertainty? While some of these areas have gotten us through these crises, these are temporary and don't offer a lasting peace. Only Jesus Christ can promise us these things, only He can bring you everlasting peace.

Jesus Christ remains victorious forever. Christ died on the cross penniless, struggling to get air into his lungs, abandoned and left alone. He was unjustly convicted, beaten and killed by the Roman government, but after three

days, he emerges victorious and rises again. When you are united with Jesus, his victories over troubles and his power become yours as well.

One day Jesus will come back to make everything right. Christ is victorious and victory is Christ in you.

Next steps:

1. Read John 14-17.
2. Share with someone.
3. Be united with Christ.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday A. Redd Sevilla, Launch Pastor of New Life East leads us in a sermon on Facing Trouble in the World. Today Pastor Redd explores how the words of Christ empower us to face the turbulent and troubling times we are currently living in.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, how did you work through troubles you experienced, was grief and loss something that was discussed or were these experiences and emotions kept quiet and not processed? How does what you were taught and learned shape how you view your relationships
3. Where are you placing your trust when it comes to your finances, the spread of COVID, the continued racial unrest and political uncertainty? Are you able to place your trust in God and not the false comforters that are fleeting and temporary?
4. Are you able to find silence and stillness sensing how the Holy Spirit is speaking to you? How might you respond to him or follow him?
5. Find time this week to re-read this scripture (John 14-17), offer someone words of comfort, hope and peace to others and see where you might be placing too much hope in the world and not enough in God.