

*Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John*

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

**Taking Heart in Troubled Times  
(John 16:16-33)**

**1. Recognize a purpose beyond perception (vv. 16-23a)**

**2. Resolve to persist in prayer (vv. 23b-24)**

**3. Rest in God's preservation in your pain (vv. 25-33)**

**For Further Thought and Discussion:**

**Getting Started:**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

### Going Deeper:

2. At the end of this passage, Jesus says, *“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world”* (v. 33) According to Jesus, what awaits us in this *“present evil age”* (Galatians 1:4)? What is available *“in him”*? How do Jesus’ words shape our expectations of what the Christian life will be like?
3. Jesus compares his death and resurrection to labor pains followed by the birth of a child (vv. 21-22). How does the resurrection answer the disciples’ questions about why Jesus must leave for a *“little while”* (compare vv. 16-19 and v. 23a)? How does the image of a woman in labor help us understand suffering in the Christian life, and our dying and rising with Christ (see Romans 8:16-17, 22-23)?
4. Jesus says that when his disciples see him again, they will experience a joy that no one can take away (v. 22). Then, he tells them to pray *“that [their] joy may be made full”* (v. 24)? What’s the connection between the joy the disciples’ experience at Jesus’ resurrection, and the joy they will experience through prayer? Why is prayer essential to experiencing joy in Jesus (see Philippians 4:6-8)?
5. When does Jesus think the disciples will understand his teaching (v. 25)? How do the disciples interpret his statement (vv. 29-30)? What does Jesus’ think about the disciples’ faith at this juncture (vv. 31-32)?

### Application:

6. In his sermon, Jeff drew two implications: in times of trouble, we should (1) be quick to acknowledge emotions, but slow to draw conclusions about what things ultimately mean, and (2) turn our thinking into praying. Which of these stood out to you? Which is most relevant to you right now? Why?
7. What’s one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?