

Fortified for the Mission

John 16:23-33

Main Idea

In order to be fortified for the mission that He's given us, Jesus teaches that we will need clarity, comfort, humility, and courage.

John 16:23-25

²³ In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you.

²⁴ Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father.

John 16:26-30

²⁶ In 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, “Lo, now You are speaking plainly 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.”

John 16:31-33

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.”

Fortified for the Mission

1. *Clarity* regarding the mission

²³ In that day **you will not question Me about anything.**

John 16:16-20, 23

¹⁶ “A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me.” ¹⁷ Some of His disciples then said to one another, “What is this thing He is telling us, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I go to the Father’?” ¹⁸ So they were saying, “What is this that He says, ‘A little while’? **We do not know what He is talking about.**” ¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wished to question Him, and He said to them, “Are you deliberating together about this, that I said, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me’? ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy.

²³ **In that day you will not question Me** about anything...

After He rose from the grave, the disciples would understand that Christ's death and resurrection were necessary for His mission.

Up to this point, they were confused about why the Messiah would have to do that.

Fortified for the Mission

1. *Clarity* regarding the mission
 - a. Clarity regarding the nature Christ's mission

²³ In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you.

²⁴ **Until now you have asked for nothing in My name**; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

What were they confused about?

What were they confused about?

Israel's greatest need was not to be saved from the nations that opposed God & His people (their enemies).

Israel needed to be saved from God.

John 3:16, 36

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life...

³⁶ He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

Jesus' mission was to go to the cross in order to satisfy the wrath of God on behalf of all who would believe in Him.

Apart from Christ's death and resurrection, there is no hope of being saved from the wrath of God.

Fortified for the Mission

1. *Clarity* regarding the mission
 - a. Clarity regarding the nature Christ's mission
 - b. Clarity regarding the purpose of the Father

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will **tell you plainly of the Father.**

Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it **the righteousness of God is revealed**

Romans 3:21-26

²¹ But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,
²² even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ **for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in**

The death and resurrection of Christ will plainly tell of the Father's wisdom, justice, and mercy which have become clear in His plan of redemption.

Fortified for the Mission

2. *Comfort* in the Father's sovereign grace
 - a. The Father Himself loves you

²⁶ In 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.

the Father Himself loves you,
because you have loved Me and have believed

“because” is demonstrative, not causative

John 6:44

44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him..."

1 John 4:10

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us...

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2. *Comfort* in the Father's sovereign grace
 - a. The Father Himself loves you

²⁶ In 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.

Your love for Christ and faith in Him are not the cause of God's love for you.

They are the proof that he has set His covenantal love on you, making you one of His, eternally secure.

We must not get this backwards.

Fortified for the Mission

2. *Comfort* in the Father's sovereign grace
 - a. The Father Himself loves you
 - b. The father is satisfied with Christ's work for you

²⁸ I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; **I am leaving the world again and going to the Father.**”

Hebrews 1:3

When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

Returning to the Father demonstrates that His work on our behalf is finished and satisfactory in the eyes of God.

Fortified for the Mission

3. *Humility* in light of our weakness

- a. We should not overestimate our own strength and understanding

²⁹ His disciples said, “Lo, now You are speaking plainly 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...**”

Fortified for the Mission

3. *Humility* in light of our weakness

- a. Don't overestimate our own strength and understanding
- b. Don't underestimate the power of circumstances and temptation

²⁹ His disciples said, "Lo, now You are speaking plainly 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...**

A characteristic of spiritual strength is the humility that can honestly recognize our own vulnerability and weakness.

Fortified for the Mission

4. *Courage* in light of Christ's decisive victory
 - a. Expect tribulation

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.”

Fortified for the Mission

4. *Courage* in light of Christ's decisive victory
 - a. Expect tribulation
 - b. Expect victory

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.**”

How has Jesus overcome the world?

- The ruler of this world cast out (John 12:31)
- The ruler of this world is judged (John 16:11)
- The strong man (Satan) is bound (Mark 3:24-27, Rev 20:1-3)

As a result of Christ's finished work, there has been a massive reduction in Satan's power and influence in the world, enabling the Great Commission and the progress of the Kingdom of God.

How has Jesus overcome the world?

- The world will be set free from the curse (Romans 8:18-23)
- Our present suffering is producing a greater future glory (2 Cor 4:17-18)
- Death died in the death of Christ (Matt 16:18, Acts 2:24, John 14:19)

As a result of Christ's finished work, suffering and death have been overcome while we wait for our sure redemption.

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4. *Courage* in light of Christ's decisive victory
 - a. Expect tribulation
 - b. Expect victory

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