

Series: I Wish I'd Asked That; Sermon: "How Do You Find Courage?"
Delivered on May 12, 2019, by Dr. Josh Moody, senior pastor

Bible text explored: John 16:29–33

²⁹His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God."
³¹Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³²Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³I 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." [ESV]

Review and application:

At the close of his earthly ministry Jesus ceased teaching through parables, and his disciples thought they had finally grasped the mind-boggling truth.

1. Of what (vv. 29-30) were the disciples now convinced . . .
. . . about how extensive Jesus' knowledge was?
. . . about from where he had come? (See also *John 17:7-8*.)
Was this understanding a solid basis for spiritual life? (See *John 17:3*.)
2. While the disciples' confidence in him was valid, what (vv. 31-32) did Jesus know to be unrealistic about their self-confidence?
How realistic are we about our tendency to mess up on our own?
3. To whom did Jesus turn for strength to face difficult situations?
Are we aware how "prone [we are] to wander, to leave the God [we] love"?
How will realism make us aware of our sinful tendencies without causing us to beat ourselves up for our lapses?
Why are guilt trips over wayward loved ones unwarranted?
How could slogans such as "Let go, and let God," and "What would Jesus do?" sidestep reality?
4. What trials and sorrows (v. 33) are we bound to face in this world?
So what is our source of encouragement?
When Jesus rose from the dead, what did his power overcome?
5. Pastor Josh cited Daniel as a model of courage in a hostile environment.
What was his steadfast purpose?
To whom did he pray daily for overcoming power?
How did this enable him to prosper over a lifetime?
6. Reflect on these lines from "God Moves in a Mysterious Way":

*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.
Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace . . .*

—William Cowper