***John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”***

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. Do you have peace in Jesus this morning? This Advent season, we have had a clear focus. Every message has been focused on the fact that God uses adversity and trials to perfect our Faith, build our Hope, and foundation our Joy in the only unchanging connection we have - Jesus. Adversities are the lighted arrows in a sin darkened world directing us toward Peace in Jesus Christ. Trials, lightning, storms, sometimes years and years long, peel off the things we place our trust in until at last we trust only in Jesus – and there we have Peace.

In the prior verse, Jesus said this - *Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.* Recall with me that Judas has already left the room, he’s already on the footpath to betrayal. Jesus has already washed the feet of the disciples. He’s predicted Peter’s denial. He is foretelling how the disciples will flee, deny Him. He’ll be crucified dead and buried. He’ll suffer… yet, He has a great comfort. He knows He is never alone. The Father, Almighty God, is with Him. He has Peace, even as death approaches.

We have a great further comfort! Jesus is our High Priest seated by God – Hebrews 8:1 *Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.* In Jesus, we are never alone. He is interceding for us always. Trials and tribulations will come, adversities will arise. Where is our Faith? Who is our Focus?

Verse 33 starts - *These things I have spoken to you.* What things? Chapters 13, 14, 15, and now 16. Jesus told the disciples what is coming. Their Teacher will be taken away. They will be delivered up to the authorities and suffer. Their whole world, as it has existed for the last 3 years, is about to be shaken. Jesus has spoken these things.

Verse 33 continues - *that in Me you may have peace.* The Greek word In has the idea of fixed positioned within – Jesus is saying peace, quietness, certainty in the storm is positioned within Me. Stillness is found there. Confidence is found there. Why? Because we are in Him and He is beside the Father and nothing can move us – except us.

Verse 33 continues - *In the world you will have tribulation.* Peace is not found in this world. If you’re looking there, you’re up for disappointment. That word In is the same as earlier. When we are positioned, fixed, taking a stand based on this world, we will have tribulation. The word tribulation is rooted in a word meaning suffering and affliction, pressure from all sides. Notice that Jesus doesn’t say – you might, could possibly, experience a moment of pressure, light pinch… no, He is saying to us – as long as you choose to place your hope in this world and the things of this world, you will, no doubt, have affliction. You cannot serve two masters. When we follow Jesus, the world will not comprehend us. We will be light and the world loves darkness. We will shed light on the evil that the world wants hidden. It won’t be a momentary pinch, but ongoing pressure.

Verse 33 finishes - *but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.* But possess courage, hold hope, grasp belief. The Greek word for cheer has the idea of courage. Then Jesus finishes – I have overcome, subdued, conquered the world.

This week as we approach Christmas and the celebration of our Savior’s birth – pray and meditate on this: while we are in the world, trials will come. When we are in Jesus, we find a fixed peace in Him. We’re anchored in the storms. We take courage and choose this place of peace because we know He has conquered this world. Paul asks in Romans 8:35 - *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?* He answers in verses 37-39 - *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Paul is convinced – but the question we must answer is: Are we? Trials produce patience and perseverance, perseverance produces character, character produces hope. Hope in Christ, born to us, that we might have peace in Him who overcame this world and is even now preparing a place for those that believe.

Christmas – what a perfect time to give God the gift of your heart.