

7 APR 2017 LENT CONTEMPLATION

Overcoming Life's Challenges With Faith, Love And Hope (John 13-16)

- 1. The Impending Challenges Faced By Disciples
 - a. Jesus' imminent departure (13:33)
 - b. Persecution and troubles were coming (15:20, 16:1-2)
- 2. How Should The Disciples Face These Challenges?
 - a. FAITH: By trusting & abiding in Jesus
 - i. You have trusted God (14:1, Deuteronomy 31:6)
 - ii. You can also trust in Me
 - My true identity (14:6)
 - My unique relationship with God the Father (14:9-11)
 - iii. You must abide in Me (15:4-5)
 - iv. The Resultant Blessings:
 - Greater works (14:12)
 - Answered prayer (14:13-14, 15:7)
 - Much fruitfulness (15:5)

- b. LOVE: By remaining in My love (15:9-10)
 - i. The example of Jesus abiding in His Father's love (16:31-32)
 - ii. The Resultant Blessing:
 - Having joy in the midst of troubles (15:11)
- c. <u>HOPE</u>: By holding tightly to an unshakeable hope based on Jesus' victory at the Cross (16:33)
 - i. What has Jesus accomplished?
 - He has overcome sin, death and Satan (1 Corinthians 15:57, Colossians 2:15)
 - He has prepared a dwelling place for us in His Father's house (14:2-3)
 - He will reign on His glorious throne in a new world (Matthew 19:28, Revelation 21:1-4)
 - ii. Jesus' example: Why was Jesus able to face the Cross with such great peace and calmness? (Hebrews 12:2)
 - iii. The Resultant Blessings:
 - Enjoying peace in midst of trouble (16:33)
 - Joyfully looking forward to live in God's glory (Rom 5:1-2)

3. How can you appropriate this triad of Faith, Love and Hope in facing life challenge?

- i. Faith: God is faithful. He will never leave or forsake you. He will sustain you through your trial with His power and resources.
- Love: God has always loved you and will continue to love you, even during this tough time. You need to stay connected to His love.
- iii. Hope: Jesus has already won the victor's crown and you have a glorious hope in eternity. Your present trial pales in comparison with the eternal glory that you will enjoy (Romans 8:18). So you can take courage in facing your adversity.

4. OUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL CONTEMPLATION

- a. What is one significant life challenge you are presently facing?
 E.g. Sickness, relationship difficulties, career setback, financial needs, domestic problems, ministry difficulties, etc.
 - i. How can you apply these 3 truths in your present trial?
 - ii. What has the Lord promised you concerning this life challenge? Remember what we learnt in John 15:7 on praying for God's spoken word (rhema) to be fulfilled in your present situation? Spend some time praying for a breakthrough.
- b. If you are not facing a major challenge today, how can you pray for your friend or loved one who is facing a tough time today? How can you minister to him/her, based on what you have learnt?

5. QUESTIONS FOR CELL DISCUSSION

- a. What is one truth that the Lord spoke to you this evening? What are you going to do about it?
- b. If you are struggling with a life issue today, please share it with your cell members. Ask them to pray with you for a breakthrough.
- c. Share and pray for each other.