



GREATER: the book of John

SCRIPTURE: John 16: **JESUS > TROUBLE**

Each week we have contrasted some aspect of the Christian life with who Jesus is, and what we have discovered is that Jesus is greater than anything we will face!

John chapter 3 a different John is talking about Jesus... this is John the baptist... he is the one who paves the way for Jesus see and he looks up and sees Jesus and says this...

John 3:30

30 He must become greater; I must become less.

On any team we have to understand our roles. Jesus is the captain, the coach. He's the star. We are simply role players and our job is to make sure that Jesus becomes greater in our lives.

As we have worked our way through the gospel of John chapter by chapter, we have seen how Jesus is greater than so many things...

John 2 - greater than expectations

John 4 - greater than our past

John 5 - greater than the Sabbath

John 6 - greater than the natural world

John 7 - greater than man's approval

John 8 - greater than darkness

John 9 - greater than blindness

John 10 - greater than the thief

John 11 - greater than sadness

John 12 - greater than greed

John 13 - greater than pride

John 14 - any direction

John 15 - any love

The gospel of John records Jesus' farewell sermon, or teaching. Imagine all that is about to transpire in the next few hours. Jesus has a meal with his best friends and then gives them a pep talk. In the next four chapters (14-17) Jesus will drive home three critical facts...

1. He is leaving.
2. The Apostles will continue Jesus' mission with opposition from this world.
3. The Holy Spirit will assist them in their mission

Think of this as sort of a halftime speech. The Jesus as the coach is outlining what the rest of the game is going to look like and what it will take for the team to win. And there is going to be some adversity. But Jesus is encouraging his team to do all they can do, with help from the HS, to win the game.

Some of the best speeches I have ever heard have come from coaches. Motivational, Inspirational, Convicting, Rebuking, Teaching.

To have a good game and even more so, to have a good season, you have to overcome adversity. There are going to be some bumps in the road.

Some of the greatest stories of all time are comeback stories in sports.

The coach's job is to keep the team focused on the goal.

And that's what Jesus is doing here in John 16. Helping his friends see the big picture.

John 16:1-6

1 "All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. **2** They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. **3** They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. **4** I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, **5** but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' **6** Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. **7** But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I

will send him to you. **8**When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: **9**about sin, because people do not believe in me; **10**about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; **11**and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. **13**But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **14**He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. **15**All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

Jesus goes on to tell them...

16Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

He's talking about the cross. And his burial, and eventually he is going to leave this earth and go back to the father. And during this time, there will be adversity for his followers. Jesus encouragement is this... don't give up!

17At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" **18**They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

19Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?" **20**Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. **21**A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. **22**So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. **23**In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. **24**Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

25 "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. **26**In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. **27**No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. **28**I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

29Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. **30**Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even

need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”

31 “Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. **32** “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

JESUS > TROUBLE

John 16:33

33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

JESUS KNEW THE ENDING. HE KNEW HOW THE GAME WOULD END. HE KNEW THAT DEATH WOULD BE OVERCOME WITH VICTORY.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus knew that even though the game was going to be tough, that there was victory for those who believed and followed him.

John 16:33

33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. **In this world you will have trouble.** But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

How many of you know this to be true?

There will be opposition to those of us who choose Jesus’ team. And sometimes it will feel like we are losing. Sometimes that opposition might come from the other team.

1 Peter 1:8-9

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **9** Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

And sometimes the opposition will come from our own team. Have you ever seen the sideline of a team that is losing? Sometimes it tends to implode. Lots of finger pointing.

Sometimes the home team fans turn on the team.

John 16:33

33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Let's pray!

Small Group Questions:

1. Did you enjoy Tailgate Sunday? What was your favorite part of the morning?
2. As a group, read all of chapter 16. Discuss verses 6-12. Who is Jesus speaking about? What does it mean to be an advocate? Why is it good for all of this to happen?
3. Have you ever been on a team, or a part of a group where the leader or coach gave you a "speech" to up the moral of the team? How did it effect the members? How did it effect you?
4. Sometimes people accept Jesus with the thought, "all my troubles will go away". What is wrong with this thought? What are some promises we have in Jesus?
5. Jesus was betrayed by one of his closest friends and faced opposition from those that followed him. Have you ever experienced a time when you faced opposition from your teammates, friends, or family? How did you resolve the situation?

6. Read John 16:33. What hope does this passage give you? How do we live this out each day?
7. What are some different things that makes a team victorious? What are some things that makes the Christian life victorious?
8. Spend some time praying for one another.