

A Victory Won

INTRODUCTION

It's hard to imagine how excited Norreasha Gill must have been in May, 2005, when she won the big "100 Grand" contest run by her Lexington radio station, WLTO-FM. According to the Associated Press, "She won by listening to the station for several hours and being the tenth caller at a specified time." The night before she went to collect her prize, she promised her three young children that they were going to get a minivan, a home with a backyard, and lots of shopping.

The next morning she went to the station but was asked to return later. When she got home, there was a phone message from the station manager explaining that she had won a Nestle's 100 Grand candy bar, not \$100,000.

Norreasha sued them for deceptive advertising. The station manager offered her \$5,000, but she wouldn't go for it. "I said I wanted \$95,000 more. Nobody would watch and listen for two hours for a [1] candy bar."

It could be easy for people to feel about God in a similar way. It could be easy to feel that God hasn't lived up to our expectations. More than one individual has even tried to sue God.

In October of 2005, a convicted murderer in a Romanian prison sued God for his troubled life. The man, identified as Pavel M., filed a suit in which he requested "legal action against God, resident in Heaven, and represented here by the Romanian Orthodox Church, for committing the following crimes: cheating, concealment, abuse against people's interest, taking bribes, and traffic of influence."

Pavel also noted that "God even claimed and received from me various goods and prayers in exchange for forgiveness and the promise that I would be rid of problems and have a better life." According to the suit, this did not happen, and the plaintiff instead found himself in the devil's hands.

Pavel's complaint was sent to the Timisoara Court of Justice and forwarded to the prosecutor's office. However, it was eventually dropped because the defendant—God—was not subject to a civil court's [2] jurisdiction.

The truth is Christianity is not just this nice "everything's going to work out okay" attitude. When you think of Christ at the tomb of Lazarus, he wept because it wasn't supposed to be like this. He had spoken this beautiful world into existence and it was so broken, so messed up. So what is it they we are celebrating today on Easter. In the last statement Jesus makes to his disciples before heading to the Garden of Gethsemane, we discover three promises that define our understanding of what Jesus offers us on Easter.

Turn with me to 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."

HEARING THE JOURNEY CALL IS AN INVITATION TO EMBRACE THE PROMISE OF EASTER.

T.S. We embrace Jesus as our hero because

I. Promise One – We are going to face trouble.

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."

As we have been listening to hear the journey call over these past weeks we have been forced to face the harsh reality that though we were originally created for something so much more, no face a world of trouble. We face a world in which lives are broken.

- Broken by circumstances,
- Broken by rejection
- Broken by hurt
- Broken by sin

We face

- Trouble at work
- Trouble in relationships
- Trouble with money
- Trouble with kids
- Trouble with our health

We so much want to hear God say come to be and life will be easy, I'll bless you with riches, I'll make all your troubles go away. Instead Jesus actually promises that in this world we are still going to face Trouble.

Look at these posters, they reflect the harsh reality of life.

Life: Not All Pain is Gain

Ambition: The journey of a thousand miles sometimes ends very very badly.

Adversity: That which doesn't kill just postpones the inevitable.

The first promise of Easter is a hard one. Every day is not like Easter. Everyday is not a party, a holiday a celebration. In this world we will face trouble.

Jesus says more to us in this passage.

II. Promise Two – Peace is still attainable.

Despite the fact that we will face trouble, peace is still attainable.

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."

What is peace?

PEACE

a condition of freedom from disturbance, whether outwardly, as of a nation from war or enemies, or inwardly, within the soul. ^[3]

PEACE

The gospel in Christ is a message of peace from God to men (Luke 2:14; Acts 10:36, "preaching peace by Jesus Christ"). It is "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," in Rom 5:1; the King James Version 10:15; peace between Jew and Gentile (Eph 2:14-15); an essential element in the spiritual kingdom of God (Rom 14:17). ^[4]

Peace is what my dog has when he lays at my feet. He doesn't have a worry or a care. He simple is a peace with me. The world could be horrible, overwhelming, chaotic. But he's at peace.

It is the promise that

- We can cope with the relationship breakup.
- We can heal form the grief of our loss.
- We can live down the mistakes of our youth.
- We can face aging with dignity
- We can feel security in a job loss.
- We can find purpose in chaos

The second promise of Easter is that no matter what we face we can still find peace.

III.Promise Three – Jesus has overcome.

Why is it that Jesus can promise us peace even though he also promises that we will face trouble.

Because he guarantees it.

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."

Literally he say have courage. Chin up! I have prevailed to the victory against the world.

A. He deals with the past

- 1. The fact that we'd blown it.**
- 2. The fact that we were outside the place of blessing.**
- 3. The fact that we deserved judgment.**

B. He deals with the present

1. He gives us fullness in Life
2. He gives us purpose in Life

C. He deals with the future

1. Promise of Eternal life
2. Assurance of Victory

📖 HEARING THE JOURNEY CALL IS AN INVITATION TO EMBRACE THE PROMISE OF EASTER.

SUMMARY

Jesus does promise that we will still face trouble and difficult in life. Some of our own doing some because things just happen. But he also promise us peace that is attainable because he has prevailed .

CHALLENGE

Too often I think what we feel that what God's wants of us is this. He'll forgive our past, but he want sus to clean it up, make amends for all the mistakes, failures and sins. And then he expects us to live in the present is such a way that shows we've got it all together and then maybe if we do good enough one day he will reward us with eternal life.

The picture of the journey Jesus Calls us to is inaccurate. It is much more accurate to understand ithat what Jesus offers us in our brokenness, our hurt our woundedness our trouble, our challenges, is himself, trust him, he will carry us through to the victory that we ourselves could never attain.

Dick and Rick Hoyt are a father-and-son team from Massachusetts who together compete just about continuously in marathon races. And if they're not in a marathon they are in a triathlon — that daunting, almost superhuman, combination of 26.2 miles of running, 112 miles of bicycling, and 2.4 miles of swimming. Together they have climbed mountains, and once trekked 3,735 miles across America.

Rick Hoyt is totally incapable of that list of accomplishments. Rick Hoyt cannot walk or talk. As you watch this video of their participation in the Hawaiian Iron Man Triathalon--that daunting, almost superhuman, combination of 26.2 miles of running, 112 miles of bicycling, and 2.4 miles of swimming.

In there story see the picture of Jesus, our hero who picks us up in our brokenness and carries through to victory.

VIDEO

Can you hear the savior call?

It's not too late. I know your struggles, your hurst your failures. Come to me. Ask and I will deal with everything. I will carry you through to victory.

[1] AOL News (6-23-05); submitted by Lee Eclov, Vernon Hills, Illinois

[2] "Prisoner Sues God," Ananova.com, Toronto Star (10-20-05); submitted by Kirk Macleod, Keswick, Ontario

[3] (from International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, Electronic Database Copyright (c)1996 by Biblesoft)

[4] IBID