

We're continuing our sermon series "There and Back Again." In this series, we are going through Jesus' Upper Room Discourse which were Jesus' last words to His disciples before He would be betrayed, tried, tortured, crucified, died, buried, and rise again on the third day. And so these are some of the last words that Jesus speaks to His disciples before He dies and rises again. We have to know that what He has to say is going to be important to His disciples as Jesus has some of His last moments with His disciples.

With our there and back again theme, we believe that Jesus went from the Father and the back to the Father, there to earth and back to heaven. So too, we think about our own spiritual journey. We are going back to the Father. We are going to our Heavenly Home, so we want to make sure we have everything we need to do that there and back again journey.

We talked about how the Holy Spirit provides four P's for our journey, last week we talked about the P of perspective. The Holy Spirit gives us the gift of perspective. In the pains of this life, we can know we have heaven waiting for us, and as we fix our eyes on Jesus, we can go forward with confidence knowing that even these trials and sufferings are but a momentary thing that pales in comparison to eternity.

We are going to go through our text backwards. We are going to start with the end and work our way to the first verses. I'm not going to give you the second P that the Holy Spirit gives us until the end of the sermon. Bear with us, we are going to start at the end and work our way to the beginning.

Today we're going to think of things in terms of war. General Omar Bradley said, "Amateurs talk tactics, but professionals talk logistics." What this means is that an amateur is going to focus on getting his troops in the right places and trapping the enemy through strategic success. A professional knows that there's more to war than having your troops in the right places. The key to success is logistics, that is, getting supplies to your troops that they may be enabled to win the battles. They need rations to have the strength to fight. They need ammunition so they can take all the shots they need. They need field hospitals to care quickly for those injured in battle.

Our first point 3. Supply lines win wars (v. 31-33). It may not be the most exciting thing, but if you don't have the supplies, you cannot win the war. Jesus talks about victory as the last verse of our text reads, **"I 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."** This passage is worth learning by heart. I want to focus on that one word, "overcome." I have overcome. In Greek it's actually one word. It's a perfect tense which means it's a done deal. It could also be translated as 'I have had victory.' 'I have won' over against the world. It's a done deal. Jesus has overcome the world, nothing can change that.

We as Christians can take heart knowing that Jesus' victory has already been won. This ties into our first P, perspective. We can be confident, and Jesus was confident, even before His death and resurrection. He was telling His disciples this even before He was going through the events of Holy Week.

How could He do this? Look at the preceding verse. He's not alone! He said, **“Behold, 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.”** Here Jesus is talking about how when the mob came to arrest Him, the disciples will hide. They will leave Jesus alone. But Jesus knows that even then He is not alone. His Heavenly Father is with Him. He's able to get through the events of Holy Week knowing that He is never alone.

All of Jesus' ministry was from the Father through the Holy Spirit. All three persons of the Trinity were working to save us through Jesus' earthly ministry. And the Holy Spirit was upon Jesus to assist Him in every deed He did. The Father worked through the Holy Spirit to keep the supply lines going that Jesus had all that He needed to get through the lows of His ministry.

As we consider our own lives. We cannot go it alone. Oftentimes, we feel as though we're left alone. But there's no such thing as me and Jesus Christianity. That's why we need the Church to provide us the supply lines that give us what we need. We can take heart knowing that Jesus has overcome the world and we gather together as those who have been called by the Holy Spirit, created by the Father and redeemed by Jesus. We as the Church can win our spiritual battles through those divine supply lines.

Let's back up and go to our central paragraph in our text today: verses 25–28. How do we get this connection to the divine supply line? Jesus spells it out. 2. God provides through the supply line of faith (v. 25-28).

Jesus tells the disciples, **“...for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”**

We see in this quote the there and back again story of Jesus having come from heaven and going back to heaven. The disciples believed that story. They believe that Jesus was no mere carpenter, miracle worker, or just a good teacher. They believed that He is something more. Perhaps not fully this side of Pentecost, but they followed Him. They trusted that He had the words of eternal life.

We as Christians believe that we are sinners in need of forgiveness. That we are unable to go it alone because we are sinners in need of a savior. So we believe that Jesus is the eternal Son of God who has always existed. We believe that Jesus is our redeemer who has rescued us from our sorry state and is preparing a way that we too will go to heaven.

Faith receives the promises of God. Faith sees that God is the one giving us rations through the supply lines. **“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”** Both heavenly and earthly gifts come through these supply lines. The Father gives us our daily bread, but more than that, we see He gives us Jesus who saves us.

Thus, we gladly go to Church where we receive forgiveness through the confession and absolution as through the mouth of Christ Himself, where we hear that we are forgiven in the sermon, and where we receive forgiveness through Christ being truly present in the body and blood in with and under the bread and wine of the Lord’s Supper. These are the rations that God delivers through the supply lines of faith. God gives us opportunities to trust Him as our supplier of every good and perfect gift. All this comes from trusting the Father who sent Jesus from heaven back to heaven—there and back again.

Finally, let’s talk about the first part of our text, verses 23–24 where Jesus talks about asking. Jesus says, **“In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”** That gets us to our second P in our sermon series, prayer.

1. Prayer keeps in contact with HQ (v. 23-24). The Holy Spirit gives us prayer that we may ask the Father and know that He will give us what we need. In a war, clear communication lines are key. It’s important to know your communications are being heard. You need to know if you ask for ammunition, medical supplies, or rations, that HQ is on the other side providing those needs.

Prayer is the same way. We know that the Father knows what we need before we ask, but prayer opens our eyes to the situation on the ground. Prayer lets us A. see what’s already happening to let us see that the Father is indeed already providing. B. It lets us know that those things we ask for are being provided. It may be in our timeline. It may be, not yet, but we know our Heavenly Father hears us when we pray and it gives us confidence to go about our life knowing that our Heavenly Father listens to us in the name of Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

We can take heart that Jesus went there and back again, and He is working to bring us there and back again as well. Not only do we have the promise of perspective, that we have Heaven waiting for us, but we have communication on a daily basis with our Heavenly Father through the gift of prayer. That’s how we realize the supply lines are already working. **THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES THE GIFT OF PRAYER TO ASSURE US VICTORY.**