

## The One Who Conquers

2025-09-14 – Revelation 21:1-8



On the night when he was betrayed, Jesus told his disciples that he had overcome the world. With his death and resurrection, he proved the truth of these words. This Sunday we will be looking at how we navigate a hostile world in light of the promises that Christ has overcome.

Good morning. If you've got your Bibles, I want to invite you to open to **John 16**. And as you're doing that, I want to tell you that I have had this Sunday circled for 20 months. For 20 months, I've been excited that this Sunday I was going to preach to you the book of Jonah. You see, this Sunday is the beginning of a new ministry here at our church. And this year, we are going to be focused on taking the gospel into this world. And so right now you're thinking, "Matt, you said open to **John 16**. Did you mean Jonah 16?" But there's not a Jonah 16. But the reason we're not going to be opening to Jonah today is because on Wednesday, a child of God was murdered, in the public square. And we need to talk about it as a church.

This morning we need to talk about Charlie Kirk, and we're not going to spend a lot of time on Charlie Kirk, but Charlie Kirk was killed for his faith. Now, some of you may be saying, and I, I don't know, I'm, I'm not going to worry much about this, but some people see him as primarily a political activist. And I want to encourage you, if you listen through the way he communicates, his identity in Christ, this is his primary identity. One of the saddest things from this week is watching people talk about, "Well, he deserved it because he's okay with guns," or, "Well, it was hateful speech, so it needed to be stopped." **We live in a world and a culture where people cannot tell right from wrong (Jonah 4:11)**. The biblical term in the book of Jonah is, well, **the people of Nineveh don't know their left hand from their right (Jonah 4:11)**. We live in a culture that does not know its left hand from its right. We live in a culture that has so much watered-down truth that no one can distinguish truth from lies, righteous and wicked.

I don't know how you come into today, but I come into today feeling very angry. And you, you know, it's hard to feel angry because we're not supposed to be angry, right? We're, we're, we're not supposed to have these strong emotions where I, I actually just talked to someone right before service started who said, "I've been trying to just not have anger, trying to go to the Lord." And but when we read in Scripture, there, there are times where it's okay to be angry. **Our Lord and Savior, when He saw what the Jews were doing in the temple, flipped tables because they had turned a house of prayer into a house of commerce (Matthew 21:12-13)**. There are times

to be angry, but the question is, how will we be angry, and what truths will we point to? And today, that's what we're going to talk about.

Someday I will get to preach Jonah. But I'm not worried about that today. Someday we will get to move to next week, but right now we need to spend some time right here. We're going to take some time to cling to three truths from Scripture that every believer should be focused on today. Before we do that, though, I'm going to open in prayer.

*Father in Heaven, Father, we thank You that You sent Your Son, that He came to a world that hated Him and rejected Him, and He came knowing He would die in our place for our sins. And God, we thank You that You willingly sent Your Son because of Your great love for us. We praise You, Lord, that we are gathering because of the work of the Father, Son, and Spirit in bringing the gospel to us. We thank You that through the Spirit we can know the truth. We thank You, Lord, that for us who put our faith and hope and trust in You, we know that the victory is already won even as we look in this world, and it is a world of sorrow. Lord, we thank You that in the middle of everything going on, Your word rings true. We thank You that Your Kingdom is unshaken, and we thank You, Lord, that our belief in You, it is one that will prove to be true in the end, Lord, because of all You have done. Lord, we pray right now as we dig into Your word that Your Spirit would be moving, that You would give us eyes to see and ears to hear. Father, I pray You would speak to me. I, I pray You would speak through me, Lord. And Father, I, I pray as we dig into Your word this morning, that we would keep our eyes focused on Your Son Jesus. It is He, Your Son, who is the Messiah, and it is by His name and believing in His name that we may have life. We pray all of this in His holy and precious name. Amen.*

I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world."

John 16:33 CSB

And in **John 16** today, we're going to start, and there's going to be three truths that I want to encourage you to cling to. And the first thing we're going to see is that **the battle is already won, even when we do not yet see it (John 16:33)**. In **John 16**, where we are reading today, Jesus is talking to His disciples. It is the same night where He washed their feet. It is the same night where He told them they would all flee from Him. It's the same night Peter said, "I would never flee." When Jesus is talking to His disciples that evening, He knows that by the time the sun sets the next day, His body will be in a tomb, lifeless, breathless. And here are the final words He says before His closing prayer with the disciples at the Last Supper: "**I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world**" (**John 16:33**).

Jesus says these words knowing within 24 hours He will be dead. And He says these words knowing within about 100 hours He'll be alive again, because through His death and resurrection, **He has shown that the world has no power over Him (John 10:18)**. In everything we talk about and deal with in this life, the starting point of how we should see this world is that **the battle is already won (John 16:33)**. When Jesus says, "**I have conquered the world**" (**John 16:33**), the

word for conquered there, it's the word that behind that word, when you see the Nike logo, Nike is literally the Greek word for victory or the Greek goddess of victory. In Greek, when you see "I have conquered," Jesus is saying, "**I have complete victory over the world**" (John 16:33). "You're going to see Me nailed to a cross tomorrow, and yet **I have victory** (John 16:33). I'm going to rise from the dead, and ultimately **He will be the one victorious for all eternity** (Revelation 17:14)."

We are in the middle of what looks like a battle that at times feels hopeless. And yet **the victory is inevitable** (Revelation 17:14). It's already been won. **The days of the evil one are numbered** (Revelation 12:12). **The days of sin, and death, and grief, and sorrow, and tears, and pain have an end** (Revelation 21:4). It's hard to believe that. It's hard to believe that so often. It's hard to believe that not just because of a child of God martyred and people celebrating it. It's hard to believe that because of school shootings. It's hard to believe that because of what's going on in our world.

Wednesday, I think about Charlie Kirk, and I mourn. I also think about in the morning waking up and reading about the fact that Poland and Russia are closer and closer to war, and if NATO goes to war, World War III. We live in a world that is just always feeling like it's on the brink. And if we are not careful, we can think that's the narrative. And yet **He has already conquered the world** (John 16:33).

I hope you hold to that truth. And if you say, "Well, that's good for Him to say, but what about us?" We'll go to **1 John**, and you see again and again that **through Him and through the work of the Holy Spirit, for all who believe, we are conquerors** (1 John 5:4-5). Go to **Revelation 2 and 3**, and **the challenge for the church in the present age is that we would overcome** (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21). **We would walk in the Spirit** (Galatians 5:16). **We would walk believing that Jesus has already overcome** (John 16:33) in this life. Because **someday we will, for all who believe, sit in victory with Him for all eternity** (Revelation 3:21), not because of what we've done, but because of what He has done. Do you believe **the battle is already won** (John 16:33)? I hope you do. We don't see it yet, but it is.

### Truths We Should Cling to Today

The battle is already won, even when we do not yet see it

I go with this to **John 10**. I've been referencing this so much since preaching through it back in March or whenever we were there. But in **John 10**, when Jesus says, "**I am the Good Shepherd**" (John 10:11), He talks about **the Good Shepherd knows His sheep. He holds them in His hand, and they're also in the Father's hand. And He says nothing will snatch them away** (John 10:28-

29). And Jesus in **John 9** and **10**, you read carefully, **He knows each and every sheep He will ever hold. And no one will ever pluck them away (John 10:27-29). The battle is won (John 16:33)**. We are just waiting for the inevitable conclusion. I hope you believe that. I hope you cling to that promise. I hope before anger and fear and anxiety and worry, I hope before anything that you feel when you see the news. Parents, if your kids have social media, they saw a man get shot in the neck this week. I would bet money that they saw it multiple times. They live in a different world than you live in. I'm 39, and when I was 15, if something happened, I had to go seek it out on the Internet to find it. They opened their Snapchat or whatever, and they clicked, and all of a sudden, somebody shared it with them, and it's the front thing is seeing a man jolted back.

We live in a world where we are bombarded with wickedness and evil. And it's celebrated, the things I've seen this week. I've seen people that used to be believers that have walked away from the faith talking about how this week is a wonderful week, and I cannot believe it. And I'm shocked by it. But do you know who isn't? **The one who already won the battle (John 16:33)**. I'm praying right now as we look at the persecution in our world, and, and this is a moment of just sorrow in the United States. But I'm praying that this moment where someone for wanting to have political debate at an open forum is killed for their faith, I'm praying this moment's not an end of democracy, but it's a moment of revival. I'm not trying to be a doom and gloom person, but when I look as a pastor and I think about what happened this last week, and I think if people are going to shirk away from speaking in public, well, then we're one step away from no more democracy. And that's scary.

But then I also think about, I've talked to random people this week who didn't just see one video of Charlie Kirk, they saw others where he was sharing the gospel. And I pray that what comes out of this, there are going to be those who in wickedness say terrible things, but there's going to be those who are curious. Let us seek them out. **The battle is already won (John 16:33)**. We do not need to fear.

But you're probably angry if you're anything like me. That's been one of the hardest things this week is I've been angry, and I've been trying to just like, put my head down and work, prepare for a sermon, prepare for annual meeting, prepare for all these things. And then every once in a while, I just get really mad. And, and you know, we're not supposed to be angry, is what we think about. But, but what does Scripture say we should be thinking in these moments? I, I want to encourage you, if you've got your Bible, to open to **Revelation 6**. I was overcome with emotion a few moments ago as we were worshipping, singing, "Is anyone worthy?" Because that takes place in **Revelation 4** and **5**. After the letters to the seven churches, **there's a scroll with seven seals**.

**And the question is, who can break open those seals? And the answer, of course, is Christ Jesus (Revelation 5:5-6).**

**Truths We Should Cling to Today**

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The righteous long for justice that will span eternity

And when He breaks open those seals, we see what we're going to look at next, the righteousness of justice that will span eternity. That's our second point: **the righteous long for justice that will stand eternity (Revelation 6:10)**. In the throne room of God at the beginning of the end, **Jesus will start breaking seals on the scroll (Revelation 6:1)**. I'm not going to talk much about **Revelation** today outside of a few verses because we don't have time for that. But what I want to mention is when the scroll, the seals start being broken, the first four are the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. And today we're going to talk about the fifth seal.

**When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the word of God and **the testimony** they had given. They cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, the one who is holy and true, how long until you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?"**

**Revelations 6:9-10 CSB**

*When Jesus opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the word of God and **the testimony** they had given (Revelation 6:9).*

When the fifth seal is broken, **we find out that martyrs are in the throne room of God in heaven (Revelation 6:9)**, those who have been killed for their faith. And let me explain the word martyr to you in a way that I think we don't carry in our modern English. The language here, **those who had been slaughtered because of the word of God and **the testimony** they had given (Revelation 6:9)**. The word martyr is a word that we associate with death. But the biblical word for martyr in Greek, it's literally "martus," martyr. That's where we get it in English. But the word behind it is not about a way of dying, it's about a way of living. The word martyr is about living in such a way that those you encounter, encounter the gospel to such a point that they want to end your life.

In the book of **Acts**, when we see Jesus say at the beginning, **"You will be My witnesses to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8)**, to the disciples He is talking to, He's saying you are going to be a living witness. And by the way, those men He's talking to, they were martyrs. They died for their faith. None of them recanted the Gospel. None of them said it wasn't true. They all kept proclaiming His death and resurrection. The word martyr is not just about how someone dies, it's about living for the Gospel to the point of death. Right now in heaven, Charlie Kirk is there, among

those martyrs. *They cried out with a loud voice when the fifth seal was broken. And they say, "Lord, the One who is holy and true, how long until You judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?" (Revelation 6:10).*

And I read these words, and remember, in our society, we're not supposed to be angry. And I read these words, and I'm like, when I'm in heaven someday, I picture, "Oh, I'm gonna see Jesus. I'm not gonna think about it." **Those who died for their faith are sitting in the throne room of God, and when the fifth seal breaks, the first thing they're gonna say is, "Lord, when will vengeance come? When will You put an end to evil?" (Revelation 6:10).** That is righteous anger. That is a righteous longing for justice. **Our God is a God of justice (Psalm 89:14).** We should be angry and frustrated about what we see in this world, but what we do with that anger and frustration matters.

But we need to notice right away that **those in the presence of God are awaiting justice (Revelation 6:10).** That's reassuring for me in my anger. It, it really is because I, I don't think that way very often. I always think, "Oh, I got to calm down. I got to this, I got to that." But **those who are in heaven, in the presence of God at His throne, who were killed for their faith are saying, "When will You avenge our blood?" (Revelation 6:10).** And look at God's answer.

So they were each given a white robe, and they were told to rest a little while longer until the number would be completed of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters, who were going to be killed just as they had been.

Revelation 6:11 CSB

The answer isn't given in words, but in action. *So they were each given a white robe. And they were told to rest a little while longer until the number would be completed of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters who were going to be killed just as they had been (Revelation 6:11).*

So they're told to be patient. **Justice is coming (Revelation 6:11).** They're told to be patient. **God will bring it about (Revelation 6:11).** They're told to rest and wait on the Lord. They're also told that **He knows how many (Revelation 6:11).** **There's an ending to when this will happen (Revelation 6:11).** **There's a time coming when no longer will innocent blood be shed on behalf for the sake of the gospel (Revelation 6:11).** And that is a wonderful thing for us to think about. Until He returns, **we shouldn't expect to be in a world where we won't have suffering (John 16:33).** **Jesus: "In this world you will have suffering, but I leave you My peace" (John 16:33).** The peace is that **He has already won (John 16:33).**

In this life, we need to trust that **the Lord is in control, that He knows when the end is (Revelation 6:11).** We need to long for justice, we need to long for righteousness. We need to look in this world, and we need to weep and mourn and pray for a nation that is willing to say this is no big

deal. Or we need to pray for people that they would turn to the Lord in their anger. We need to pray that we would point others to the reality that **someday there is an end (Revelation 21:4)**. Last week when Richard was up here, he read out of **Hebrews 12** where **the blood of Jesus speaks a better message than the blood of Abel (Hebrews 12:24)**. And the reference to the blood of Abel is one who was faithfully following the Lord who was killed for it. And **from Abel to the last martyr before the return of our King, none of that bloodshed is in vain. God knows every drop (Hebrews 12:24)**. We need to rest in that because **He will bring about justice. He will bring about peace. He will bring about lasting righteousness for all who believe (Revelation 21:4)**.

#### Truths We Should Cling to Today

The battle is already won, even when we do not yet see it

The righteous long for justice that will span eternity

We can be angry. And in our anger, we can cry out, **"How long, O Lord? Until You put an end to this" (Revelation 6:10)**. **The righteous long for justice that will stand eternity (Revelation 6:10)**. If you're angry today, that's not a bad place to be. It's what you do with it that matters. If you're angry today, don't turn your anger into turning people away from the gospel. But in your anger, speak truth and point people to the reality that **this wickedness will come to an end (Revelation 21:4)**.

#### Truths We Should Cling to Today

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The righteous long for justice that will span eternity

The Lord will bring lasting justice when all things are made new

The last thing we're gonna look at today is that **the Lord will bring lasting justice when all things are made new (Revelation 21:5)**. **The battle is already won (John 16:33)**. And **the righteous long for justice that will stand eternity (Revelation 6:10)**. The battle is already won, someday we will be at the end and **there will be a new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1)**. If you've got your Bibles, go to **Revelation 21**. After the final judgment, in **Revelation 21:1-6**, John says this:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away

every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away. Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new." He also said, "Write, because these words are faithful and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life.

**Revelation 21:1-6 CSB**

*"I saw a new heaven and new earth, for the first heaven and first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: 'Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and He will live with them. They will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them, and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. Grief, crying, and pain will be no more because the previous things have passed away.'" (Revelation 21:1-4).*

There is a day coming. There is a day coming when there will be no more tears, and there will be no more sorrow. And all of the sin of this world will pass away. There is a day coming when it will all be made new. That's what our hope needs to be today and every day. And there's no question about the outcome. Remember, **the battle is already won (John 16:33)**. God is not in heaven wondering what Satan's gonna pull and is there a way I can counter it? They're not equal opposite forces. **God reigns (Psalm 93:1)**. **Every single thing is created beneath God, and God is subject to nothing (Psalm 115:3)**. **He is sovereign over all (Psalm 135:6)**. **He is all-knowing, all-powerful, Almighty (Job 42:2)**. **He is eternal (Psalm 90:2)**. **There is nothing that will stand before Him (Isaiah 40:17)**. **The gates of heaven are not currently in any danger, and they never will be (Matthew 16:18)**.

It is hard to believe this sometimes. It is hard to believe sometimes what will be, because we experience in the narrative distress and sorrow and sadness. It's hard for me to think I've got a four- and a five-year-old, and what is the nation they are going to grow up in? You know, I'm a millennial. About 80% of millennials say political violence is not okay. Any generation higher than that, it's close to like 100% say it's not okay. Go down one generation to Gen Z, it's like 58% of them are not okay with political violence. That means 42% are like, "What happened, happened." And the future generations, like we're, we're headed towards something, and I, again, I'm not trying to be doom and gloom. But if your hope is in the things of this life, just the statistics of today should be very discouraging. But if our hope is in the life to come, **it's a life where there will be no more death, no more grief, no more crying, no more pain, because the previous things have passed away (Revelation 21:4)**.

**The battle's already won (John 16:33).** We're just waiting on the Kingdom. I hope you believe that. *Then the One seated on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new." He also said, "Write, because these words are faithful and true." And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will freely give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life" (Revelation 21:5-6).* God with these words is saying, **"I know the beginning, I know the end, I am from before the beginning" (Revelation 21:6).** God who is eternal, **He has no beginning (Psalm 90:2).** He knew everything that happened before He said, **"Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3).** And **He knows everything that will happen to the end (Isaiah 46:10).** Everything we are surprised by, everything we are shaken up by, everything that keeps us up at night, **He's not in heaven saying, "I didn't account for that" (Isaiah 46:10).** He's in heaven, **biding His time for His purposes to be completed (Ecclesiastes 3:11).** He's keeping track of every drop of blood (Hebrews 12:24). He's keeping track of each and every one of His sheep, and they are in His hand (John 10:29).

**The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son. But the cowards, faithless, detestable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars—their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."**

**Revelation 21:7-8 CSB**

*The one who conquers will inherit these things. And I will be his God, and he will be My son (Revelation 21:7).* And that language is for men and women. **We will be children of God to the ones who conquer (Revelation 21:7).** And please know when it says "to the one who conquers," this doesn't mean to the one who saves themselves. It means to the one who looks to the cross and to the resurrection of Christ. To the one who recognizes that we in our own strength cannot stand before Him. To the one who recognizes that **He who is the judge of all the universe sent His Son to die in our place (John 3:16).** And **for all who call upon the name of the Lord, we will be saved (Romans 10:13),** and that is the victory here. **The one who conquers, the one who believes in the Lord Jesus for salvation, will be a child of God (Revelation 21:7).**

And look at the final part of this: *"But the cowards, the faithless, the detestable, the murderers, the sexually immoral, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).* There is a promise of justice (Revelation 21:8). As heaven comes down, and **the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1),** and it is that **for those who are in full rebellion of God, they will have no place in the new Kingdom, and they will be separated from God in hell for all eternity (Revelation 21:8).** They will be where all of us deserve to be. Because you in your own strength, I don't know which of those—coward, faithless, detestable, probably a combination of them. **All of us in our own strength have no place in the Kingdom of God (Romans 3:23), but through the work of Christ we do (Romans 5:8).** And **the God who is just, through the work of His Son, through His blood, covers our sin**

**(Romans 5:9). That we become victorious not through our strength, but through His (1 Corinthians 15:57). We will spend eternity in heaven, not as cowards, faithless, detestable murderers, not as any of these things, but we will spend eternity as children of God, perfected by the work of Christ on the cross, through the work of the Spirit, and through the work of God who makes all things new (Revelation 21:5). We who believe will be new creations for all eternity, even as we are now (2 Corinthians 5:17).** The promise of being a new creation is a work that Christ has already done in us. Again, we just don't see it yet. We see it, but we don't.

#### Truths We Should Cling to Today

The battle is already won, even when we do not yet see it

The righteous long for justice that will span eternity

The Lord will bring lasting justice when all things are made new

I'm angry today. I've been angry this week. Every time I've let myself stop and slow down, I've been angry, and I've had sorrow. And I've had sorrow for all the different reasons that you could have it: for people celebrating death, for people mocking faith, for people that think a biblical worldview is harmful speech, it's nonsense. I have anger in this time because I look around the world, and I, I just cannot imagine. The Lord Jesus, come soon, because if He doesn't, I don't know how we're going to make it another five years. And I don't say that jokingly. I look around, and I'm like, what are we headed towards? And yet my hope is not in this world, and I hope your hope is not either. If the battle is in this life, we have missed the mark because **the true battle is already won (John 16:33)**. The question is, do we see it, do we believe it, or do we walk in it?

We're going to be in the book of **Ephesians** this fall, and one of the key things in **Ephesians**, brothers and sisters, **the battle is not against flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12)**. Don't let the enemy set the wrong battle line. Don't look at your neighbors who **don't know their left hand from their right (Jonah 4:11)**, your coworkers who are rejoicing right now. Don't look at people who don't know the gospel and look at them and say, "That's the battleline." And look at them and say, "That's the person blind." Look at them and say, "Somehow the gospel could conquer them." And pray that in this life, their eyes would be opened.

I am praying right now that we are headed towards a revival in our country. And we may not be. But persecution in the history of the Church, when it's blatant and obvious, what we see in the history of the Church is that what the enemy intends has the opposite effect. Look in the Gospel of Acts. **Every time the persecution tightened on the Christian Church, it exploded (Acts 8:1-4). When the Jews had to leave Jerusalem because of how bad the persecution got, the Gentiles**

**started to believe (Acts 11:19-21)**. You look and read over the course of church history. Persecution is not something we should shrink back from. It's something that should make us look at what the Lord will do through it.

Question: I have 30 seconds left to live. I'm dying from a gunshot wound. What would you actually want to tell me if I had 30 seconds left to live?

Probably the most powerful thing I saw this week, and it's, hopefully, you've seen it if you're a person on any type of social media. There's a video where Charlie Kirk is asked in a debate, somebody says, "I've got 30 seconds left to live. I'm dying from a gunshot wound. What would you actually, what would you actually want to tell me if I had 30 seconds left to live?" This is from either a few months or a few years ago.

And here's how **Charlie Kirk answers**: Oh my goodness, that's small. *"In 30 seconds, you're about to meet eternal judgment. And there's only one way that you can get bailed out of that. It's not all the good things you did or the moral scorecard. It's whether or not you have Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. And that's the only thing that's going to matter. And so you got 10 seconds left, you're dying from a gunshot wound, and you ask a question, 'Who is Jesus Christ?' And the answer to that singular question, 'Who is Jesus Christ?' is the most important question for everyone in the audience, not how much money you have, not how much good stuff you do. It is, 'Who is Jesus Christ?' You might say, 'Oh, Jesus was, you know, a teller of good tales,' or 'Jesus was a good person,' or 'Jesus was a historical figure.' None of that's going to cut it. It's whether or not you repent and you ask Christ to come in as your Lord and Savior. That's the only thing that will save you from eternal damnation."*

I want to encourage you, if you are a person who uses social media, find that clip. And if you're going to share anything right now, share that clip 100 times. When you talk to people who are curious about faith, people who aren't angry on the other side of religion, the people who are, if it's somebody that you talk to, and they're curious, point them to this clip. Because this is what the man believed. He was killed on Wednesday, **(September 10, 2025)**. And this is what we believe, right? I mean, it's what we all believe, and in, in the world right now in social media and all the crap that's going on in the world, we can flood it with good.

One of the things I'm hopeful about, the reason I share that quote is I'm hopeful that each and every non-believer I talk to today and this week, who's been watching on TikTok and all the feeds, my hope is they saw that clip because someone talked to Charlie Kirk about a gunshot. And my hope and prayer is that people are curious. And that the Lord works through this moment that seems so wicked. Because remember, **the battle is won (John 16:33)**. What happened on Wednesday does not thwart the Kingdom of Heaven. That's where our hope needs to be.

The people you encounter right now who are blind to the gospel, we need to pray that seeds are being planted in them. To the people we encounter right now that are persecuting the church, we need to pray for them, and we need to pray for one another, by the way. I am blessed to be a pastor because my coworkers are all believers. I know many of you go into hostile places each and every day. And I'm praying for you because right now is a chance for us to stand. Right now is a chance for us to point others to the gospel, and right now is a chance for us to rest in the hope that **the battle is won (John 16:33)**. **Justice will come (Revelation 6:11)**. **God is not in heaven aloof and unaware (Psalm 139:7-12)**. **God is counting each and every drop of blood (Hebrews 12:24)**. And by the way, it's not just Charlie Kirk. There's over 190,000 martyrs a year by the most recent estimate. But those numbers are hard to really line up, but they're all over the place, and what you see when you look around is that **we live in a world that is hostile to the gospel (John 15:18)**, and as Christians **we should not be surprised (1 Peter 4:12)**.

**In this world you will have suffering, but I leave you My peace (John 16:33)**. In this world we should not be surprised because in **John 17**, when Jesus prays, He says, "**I am not of this world, but God sent Me into this world, and those who are Mine are no longer of this world, but we are sent into this world**" (**John 17:14-18**). **Someday we will be in a place with no pain, no tears, no crying, and no death (Revelation 21:4)**. But for now, let us pray that we walk as those who know **the battle is already won (John 16:33)**. **Justice will come (Revelation 6:11)**. And let us point others to the reality that **they can be children of God (John 1:12)**.

*Let's pray. Father in Heaven, You know everything. You are not surprised by anything. Father, You are all-powerful. You are all-knowing, You are everywhere. Father, You are gracious and loving, and Father, You are a God of justice. You are just, and someday You will bring justice to this world. Father, we pray that You, in Your justice and in Your mercy and in Your grace, sent Your Son to die in our place, that for all who believe, we who deserve eternal damnation, You paid the price for our sin. And Father, we pray as we walk in this world that we would rest in the promises that You have made us. We pray that we would trust in the promises You have made about the future. And Father, we pray we would walk as if the victory is already won.*

*Father, we thank You. We thank You, Lord, that we are Your children. And You do not let Your children be snatched from Your hand. We thank You, Lord, that for all who have lived in such a way where they have been killed for their testimony of Your word and of Your name, You account for their blood. And someday, justice will come. We thank You, Lord, that You are a God of justice. We thank You that You are a God of righteousness, and we thank You, God, for all eternity, we will be in Your presence, rejoicing in who You are. I pray right now, Lord, as we leave, that You would instill in us the courage to walk in this world knowing that You have already conquered this world, the battle is won. Let us not set battle lines that are not the ones You have for us. Let us look and see that our battle is not against flesh and blood. Father, help us to*

The One Who Conquers  
Pastor Matt Johnson

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*walk with compassion for those who do not know You. Help us to live, not afraid and shrinking back, but unashamed, declaring Your word.*

*Father, I pray for the interactions we have even today, even this week, that when we see those who do not know You, I pray that the testimony of men like Charlie Kirk has already reached them and that we are just pointing them to the truth that You are already declaring and proclaiming. Father, we thank You that our hope and our trust is in You, and that You will never be shaken. We pray all of this in Your holy and precious name. Amen.*



Digging Deeper – **The One Who Conquers** – Revelation 21:1-8

1. What stood out to you from the sermon?
2. Take some time to end in prayer by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.
  - a. Pray for our body of believers
  - b. Pray for revival
  - c. Pray for our nation
  - d. Pray for our world
  - e. Pray for those you are in immediate contact with
  - f. Pray that we would truly be salt and light
  - g. Pray that the Lord would be using us to carry the Gospel to those in darkness