



# SERMON CHEAT SHEET

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH | John 15:26-16:33

## WE HAVE REASONS TO HOPE AND REJOICE IN THE MIDST OF TROUBLE

### **Preparing for Challenges: Don't Be Surprised**

Jesus prepares his disciples for the reality of hardship in faithful following. He clearly states, 'In this world you will have trouble' (John 16:33), urging us not to be surprised by trials, as they are part of our faith journey. Just as he warned his followers of the societal and personal challenges they would face, we too must brace ourselves for the difficulties that come with being a follower of Christ. It's vital to understand that being a disciple of Jesus does not exempt us from hardship; rather, it empowers us to endure and stand firm during those trials.

### **The Advocate is Our Source of Strength**

In John 15:26, Jesus gifts us with the Holy Spirit as our Advocate, an essential presence among us in times of trouble. Instead of discouragement, we gain empowerment through this divine assistance, reminding us that we are never alone in our struggles. The Holy Spirit not only comforts us in our grief but also works within us to heal and transform, guiding us into all truth. As believers, it's crucial to lean into that promise instead of relying solely on our own strength.

### **Conviction Leads to Transformation: Embrace it**

Jesus highlights the role of the Holy Spirit in convicting us of sin, which isn't something to fear but a vital part of our growth as believers. Conviction seeks to lift the burdens of self-righteousness and gently reminds us of the grace and mercy we have in Christ. As believers, this internal nudging from the Holy Spirit should be met with openness and willingness to turn away from our old ways, drawing closer to who God created us to be. Remember, it isn't to shame us; it's to guide us toward true reconciliation and joy in our relationship with God.

### **In Grief, We Find Joy: A Promise from Jesus**

Jesus shares a profound truth by likening grief to the birth pains of a woman. Just as the anguish of labor brings forth new life, our trials lead to a deeper joy in Christ (John 16:21). The grief we experience is temporary; it's essential to keep that perspective as we navigate tough seasons. Knowing that our struggles have a purpose and that joy will come encourages us to press on, giving us hope for the future God's promises hold.

### **Victory is Ours: Finding Peace in Troubling Times**

Ultimately, Jesus assures us that he has overcome the world (John 16:33). This victory means that no matter how dark or difficult our trials may seem, we can hold onto peace and hope knowing the outcome has already been secured. Life may throw storms our way, but our faith in Christ anchors us amidst the turbulence. It's not about the absence of trouble, but the presence of Jesus in our lives that fortifies us and assures us of victory.

## LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Reflect on your current challenges; write down how you can lean into the Holy Spirit for strength this week.
- Practice giving your anxieties to God by casting your cares on Him in prayer each day.
- Seek opportunities to serve or encourage someone who is facing difficulty, sharing the hope you have in Jesus.

## PRAYER PROMPTS

- Ask God for the strength and courage to face any coming challenges without fear.
- Pray for a heightened awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence and work in your life.
- Request peace in your heart amidst trials and the ability to see the joy that comes through Christ.