

**Encouragement for Life in this World (when We Fail)***John 16:25-33*

**Introduction:** It can be so unsettling when we fail. It is especially troubling when we fail in an area in which we think we have the strength and the determination to succeed, to do it right, to obey. And yet the reality is that we all face this kind of failure at some point in our lives. We make promises to God that we fail to keep. We sin again in an area that we thought we'd conquered. We find ourselves saying and doing things that we thought we'd never say or do. We fail. The question is, how do we get up and start moving forward with God again when we fail in this way? In these final words of the Farewell Discourse, Jesus offers some truths to the disciples that will help them in their impending failure. May we find encouragement in Jesus' words to the disciples.

**Opening Question:** Have you experienced any kind of failure recently? If so, what was it and how did it make you feel?

**Read John 16:25-33**

1. What is Jesus' point when he says that he will not request the Father on the disciples behalf (v. 26)?
2. What does Jesus say is true about the Father's relationship with the disciples (v. 27)? And how might this encourage a life of prayer?

Brian said:

So often when we have a failure of faith we think that we cannot approach God until we put a good track record together again. We think we can't go to him until we are doing better. And so we just stay away for a time. Jesus is declaring this truth of access to a loving heavenly Father to a group of men who are going to fail him in a major way in just a short time. We have this access to the Father because of Christ and his merits not our own. The disciples' failure would not change this and neither does your failure. You have direct access to a Father who loves you because of Christ.

3. Do you ever feel that you need to earn a right to have access to the Father again after you sin?
4. How does it affect you to know that you have direct access to the Father because of Christ's merits, not your own?

5. How does Jesus respond to the disciples' profession of belief (vv. 29-31)? Why?
6. What does it mean that Jesus has overcome the world (v. 33)?
7. How does the reality that Jesus has overcome the world help us have peace in the midst of tribulation (v. 33)?
8. Where in your life right now is it especially encouraging to know that Jesus has overcome the world?