

# Victory In Jesus

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes  
Based on the Sermon Single of Glen Crouse  
12-28-2025*

## Opening Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the powerful reminder today that true victory and lasting joy are found only in a devoted relationship with Jesus Christ. As we gather in our Life Group, open our hearts to Your Word, help us reflect honestly on our walk with You, and draw us closer to the abundant life You desire for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

If you could pick one miracle from Jesus' ministry (like healing the blind, feeding the multitudes, or calming the storm) to witness in person, which one would it be and why?

## Key Scripture

**Mark 8:8-9 (NIV)** – *Ask a group member to read aloud.* They ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. About four thousand were present. After he had sent them away...

## Sermon Summary

The sermon "Victory In Jesus" highlights how Eugene Bartlett wrote this joyful hymn in 1939 while paralyzed from a stroke, showing that true spiritual victory and joy come from a devoted relationship with Christ, even amid suffering. Drawing from **Mark 8:1-10**, Jesus fed the four thousand out of compassion, yet many crowds followed Him for miracles without deeper commitment. Through intentional choices, we can experience enduring joy and victory over life's troubles by following Christ for the right reasons, giving Him full lordship, and making a long-term commitment to discipleship.

## Discussion Point 1: Follow Christ for the Right Reasons

**Scripture: John 6:26-27 (NIV)** – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you..."

**Point Summary:** Many followed Jesus for what He could do for them—physical blessings or miracles—rather than genuine spiritual hunger. To experience real joy and victory, we must examine our motives: Are we following Christ primarily for personal benefits, or to know Him, grow spiritually, serve Him, and be transformed? Right motives open the door to lasting satisfaction in Him.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What are some common "wrong" reasons people might follow Jesus today (like blessings, comfort, or social reasons)? How have you seen this in your own life or others?
2. How can we practically shift our motives toward spiritual growth and serving Christ? Share one area where you'd like to realign your reasons for following Him.

## Discussion Point 2: Give Jesus Something to Work With

**Scripture: Romans 12:1 (NIV)** – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

**Point Summary:** Jesus desires more than temporary fixes—He wants to transform our hearts, mold us into His image, and fill us with hunger for righteousness. Many Christians limit Him by not surrendering daily decisions, finances, relationships, and choices to His lordship. Giving Jesus full authority in our lives is the pathway to real, lasting victory and deeper joy.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What areas of your life (like finances, career, habits, or relationships) do you tend to manage on your own rather than seeking Jesus' input? Why is that challenging?
2. How might surrendering more fully to Jesus' lordship change how you handle daily frustrations or big decisions? What small step could you take this week?

## Discussion Point 3: Make a Long-Term Commitment to Christ

**Scripture: Luke 9:23 (NIV)** – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

**Point Summary:** True discipleship goes beyond Sunday attendance—it's a lifelong commitment affecting every moment, involving surrender, service, and perseverance. The crowds in **Mark 8** were satisfied physically but missed deeper transformation. Don't settle for minimum blessings; embrace the maximum joy and victory through ongoing devotion to Christ as Lord.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How does viewing Christianity as a "Sunday-only" thing rob us of deeper joy? In what ways have you experienced (or missed) the satisfaction of a full-life commitment to Christ?
2. What does "taking up your cross daily" look like in your current season of life? How can our group encourage each other in long-term faithfulness?

## Wrap-Up

The sermon calls us to intentionality: following Jesus for the right reasons, giving Him full access to work in our lives, and committing long-term as disciples. This leads to the enduring joy and victory Eugene Bartlett sang about, even through trials, as we live in devoted relationship with Christ. Remember **Mark 8:8**—Jesus satisfies abundantly, but the greatest satisfaction comes from knowing and following Him fully.

## Challenge

This week, take time to pray and journal about one intentional choice from the sermon—perhaps examining your motives, surrendering a specific area to Jesus' lordship, or recommitting to daily discipleship. Share your step with the group next time. If our church has any current initiatives (like a prayer emphasis or service opportunity), consider how you can participate as part of your commitment.

## Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for offering us true victory and joy that nothing in this world can take away. Help us apply what we've discussed—following You wholeheartedly, surrendering fully, and committing our lives long-term. Empower us by Your Spirit to live this out daily. We praise You for the victory already won. In Your name, Amen.