

Peace Promises

(John 14:25-31)

(preached 6/2/19; Pine Grove BC Sun AM)

Introduction

A few years back, the Huffington Post published an article describing steps to inner peace and happiness.

The title of the article was entitled “7 Ways to Find Inner and Real Happiness.”

I won’t take you through everyone of their suggestions but here are 3 that caught my eye..

#1 - Make friends with yourself.

According to article, you need to be nice to yourself.

Quote “Don’t beat yourself up or put yourself down. Just be kind (to you.”

I am not sure how to do that, but OK.

#2 - Forgive yourself. Love yourself. Treasure yourself.

Quote “you can take any guilt or shame by the hand, invite it in for tea, and open yourself to self-forgiveness.”

And then #3..

#3 - Mediate.

Quote “research shows how mediation stimulates the the feel good factor. And the only way to know that is to try it, so dont hesitate.”

And this is just one of 1000s of articles on the internet and in the world that pretty much offer the same recipe for inner peace.

This is pop-psychology at its best.

Inner peace comes from self examination, self forgiveness and self restoration and rest.

This is how to world seeks peace.

Millions of books are sold each year promising inner to their readers.

There are conferences and podcasts and magazine articles all designed to give participants the inner peace they seek.

But the irony of all of this non-sense is that none deliver lasting peace.

IF there were a sure fire way to find peace, there wouldn't be a need for new book, new articles, new conferences..

People would simply follow the formula that works and the rest of their lives would be filled with joy and peace.

However, no such inner peace exists nor can it be found by looking inward..

The only lasting peace that a person can experience must come from outside yourself.

So what or who is the source of lasting peace?

And how does that source provide us with peace?

To find out, we need to find a group of stressed out people and watch how they find peace..

Well that is exactly what we find in John 14...

In this chapter of the Bible, we have stressed out people.

In fact, we have 11 stressed out fisherman and tax collectors and everyday followers of Jesus.

And they are stressed out for a very simple reason..

Christ is about to leave them.

It is Thursday evening.

And for a final time, Christ has told them that he is going away.

Though they still aren't willing to believe how this will happen, they now seem convinced that Jesus is about to die.

And they are in a panic.

They are stressed.

They have no inner or outer peace.

So what seeks to do in this chapter and beyond is calm their anxiety.

He seeks to establish their peace.

Verse 1 is the theme of the chapter and even for the next few chapters..

“Do not let your heart be troubled;

This is the thesis statement of this section of John's gospel.

Jesus is going to offer peace to these men.

And we have learned from what Jesus says and does here..

First, we have learned that peace comes from knowing our eternal destination..

Jesus told the disciples in verses 1-3 that his leaving would allow him to prepare places for them in heaven.

Next, we learned that inner peace comes from knowing the truth.

These men knew Christ in a saving way.

They knew the only way to heaven and that is comforting.

We also learned that peace comes from knowing our purpose.

These men are going to do incredible works for Jesus in his absence..

They are going to take his message beyond the borders of Israel and into the rest of the world..

Last week, we learned that inner peace comes from knowing the resources we have.

Believers are not orphans in the world.

WE have the triune God with us as we live.

Father, Son, and Spirit are resources for these 11 men as Jesus prepares to leave them.

So inner peace is a result of knowing that you are heaven bound.

Knowing that have the truth.

Knowing that you have a purpose.

And knowing that you have help in the Father, the Son, and the Spirit..

But Jesus is not done pouring out his peace in these men's hearts..

In verses 25-31, he gives these men some specifics on how the Father, the Son, and the Spirit will work to quiet the hearts of the men as they prepare to live without the physical presence of Christ..

Let me read this passage, and then will look at each of the specifics ways that God will provide peace for these 11 men but also for believers like us..

25 “These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to

you. 27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. 28 You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. 30 I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; 31 but so that the world may know that I love the Father, [d]I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

This morning, let's identify 5 way that God works to establish and maintain peace in the lives of these 11 men and even in his people today..

Way #1 is seen in verses 25-26a..

I. Peace Comes from Instruction (25-26a)

The first time we flew on an airplane, Tonya and I listened intently to the stewardess' instructions.

We were only flying from Charlotte to Nashville, but we learned how to fasten our oxygen, find our flotation device, and use the side exit.

We were tuned in to that lady like nobody's business.

And why was that?

Well, we were nervous wrecks who had never flown before and education often provides peace.

The more you know, the more you grow out of your anxiety.

Look, that is equally true in Christianity.

Knowledge is a great anxiety killer.

On Wednesday nights, we are in 2 Thessalonians 2, and the church at Thessalonica is a nervous wreck because they think they have missed the rapture and are now in the 7 year tribulation period...

So what does Paul do to settle their hearts and give them peace?

Does he tell them to sit down and mediate and do yoga?

Does he tell them have a conversation with themselves and forgive themselves?

No, Paul give them truth.

He tells them that the tribulation hasn't arrived because the Antichrist hasn't arrived.

Look, an anxious and troubled heart needs truth.

And this is what the Holy Spirit does.

He teaches believers, and contrary to what some of you students may think..

Teaching and instruction produce peace in our hearts.

Why did the disciples hate to see Jesus go?

Were they going to miss the miracles and the healings and the resurrections?

Sure, but do you know what they missed most?

They missed the teaching.

They missed his instruction.

Every word out of Christ's mouth was pure gold.

It calmed their fears and settled their hearts.

Some people just have a way of settling us down, talking us back from the edge.

Christ was the master of it.

And the Spirit is going to take his place when He departs the disciples.

Now how does the Spirit teach?

Simple, the Spirit teaches us through the Word that He inspired.

This is why the Bible is so irreplaceable in the life of a believer.

It is not only the source of truth in your life, it is also the source of peace in your life.

Yet so many troubled people look everywhere but the Bible to seek the peace they desire.

People probably think I am crazy for all the emphasis I put on Bible reading and study, but I assure that regular Bible reading and study has so much benefit.

Yes, you will grow in knowledge and wisdom and holiness..

But guess what?

You will grow in peace as well.

But not only does the Spirit give peace through instruction, he also gives peace through recollection...

II. Peace Comes from Recollection (26b)

If you have ever daydreamed your way through a class in school, and then heard, “let’s take a quick pop quiz on what I just lectured about,” you understand fear.

And the fear is not being able to recall anything that was just said to you for the past hour by the teacher.

The disciples certainly had this fear as Jesus told them of his coming departure?

Would they remember all his sermons?

Would they be able to share all the truth that he had given them over the course of 3 years?

And the answer is yes.

They would be able to remember everything that happened to them over the course of the 3+ years that they spent with Jesus.

And how was that possible?

The Holy Spirit reminded them of what Jesus has said and done.

And how do we know that?

Well for starters, the Bible that you are holding was written by some of these disciples years after Jesus had left them.

In fact, this gospel by John wasn't likely written until after 80 AD, which would be 50 years after Jesus' earthly ministry.

So how did John remember these things?

The Spirit brought them to his mind and into his writing instrument with perfect precision.

Now, that isn't necessary in our lives today, but the Spirit still works to help us remember the words of Christ that have been recorded for us..

The Spirit still works to bring out God's word in our time of need.

And there is peace in that reality for the Christian.

We don't have to memorize the entire Bible.

The Spirit works in our lives to bring it to our minds.

Now, this doesn't excuse Bible laziness.

This doesn't excuse the need to even memorize Scripture.

This isn't permission to ignore Bible reading or study.

The Spirit works as we work to hide God's word in our hearts..

And as we work, He brings to mind what we know to remember when we need to remember it.

That promise brings a peace to any chaotic situation that we may find ourselves in.

The disciples are going to feel persecution as they take the truth to the world, but the Spirit will give them the words to say and the peace to go with them..

But peace will not just come from the work of the Spirit, peace will also come from Christ Himself..

We will call this..

III. Peace Comes from Reconciliation (27)

Verse 27..

27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Though the Spirit offers incredible peace through teaching us and helping to remember the word of God, the peace that comes through Christ is far better.

And what is the peace that Christ leaves with these men?

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, [a]we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Simply put, the peace of Christ is a gift that flows from the cross..

Jesus is going to die in the place of these 11 men.

He is going to be their substitute hanging on the cross to pay for their sin.

And as He dies for their sin, their peace with God is established.

Their sin has been paid in full.

God has declared the sinner righteous.

The sinner is now able to walk out of God's courtroom a free and innocent man.

This is the greatest peace that man can ever experience.

His sin gone.

His eternity changed.

His salvation sealed.

This is the peace that Christ leaves with these men but it is also the peace every true believer has been gifted as well.

If you are saved this morning, you didn't walk into this building with God's justice hanging over your head.

You walked into this building at peace with God.

And that peace with God leads to peace in your heart.

The peace won at the cross flows into our lives at salvation.

This truth is why I encourage believers to repent of anxiety and worry.

In fact, Jesus tells the disciples at the end of verse 27...

Do not let your heart be troubled or let it be fearful..

Honestly, what is there to be worried about when your eternal destiny has been sealed at the cross?

Everything else in your life pales in comparisons to that great truth..

Christ has provided you peace with your Creator through his finished work on the cross.

You don't have to worry about earning or keeping your salvation.

Christ has given you full and lasting peace with God.

You were alienated from your Maker, but Christ has brought you into fellowship with Him.

The peace of reconciliation is the greatest peace anyone could ever possess.

Christ and Christ alone provided that peace.

If you desire a peace like that, repent of your sin and put your trust in Christ alone.

Believe that He is the Son of God.

Affirm his perfect birth, perfect life, and substitutionary death.

Believe in His resurrection and vow to give up your sin and follow Him.

This is the good news.

The is the gospel.

You can be reconciled to God through repentance and faith in Christ alone.

That is the peace that Christ offers.

That is the peace that Christ gives to all who come to Him.

That is the peace that these men in this room on this night would preach to the world.

That is the peace that enabled them to stand before kings and rulers and angry Jews and declare the truth to them.

That is the peace that accompanied many of them to their deaths at the hands of gospel haters deniers.

That is a peace that is foreign to this world.

As Jesus says, the world does not give peace like this in any way.

You can search the world over, read every supposed self-book, attend every inner peace conference and you will never find the peace that Christ provides.

These 11 men knew it, and some of you know it.

But Jesus is not done comforting these men.

There is peace that the Spirit will bring in his instruction and recollection ministry.

There is peace that Christ brings in his substitutionary death.

But 4th, there is a peace that Christ brings in his exaltation...

IV. Peace Comes from Completion (28-31)

In verse 28, Jesus tells these men..

28 You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

There is a sense of peace that these men should have as Jesus goes to the cross and then eventually goes back to heaven at the ascension..

It is the sense of peace that comes from a job well done.

These men should be at peace knowing that Christ’s mission is coming to an end.

His humiliation at the hands of sinful men is almost complete.

His time of abuse and ridicule is coming to a close.

He is about to ascend back the Father.

In a sense, the disciples don’t understand the difficult nature of what Christ has done in lowering himself to earth.

They don't understand the full picture of his humiliation and suffering.

This is why Jesus says to them..

If you loved me, you would have rejoiced at my return to heaven.

Now clearly, the disciples do love him and have loved him, but not in way that demonstrates that they have a full understanding of his nature..

Also, let me offer a quick note on the end of verse 28...

I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

People often use that verse to argue that Jesus is not God.

Yet, this verse can't possibly mean that since Jesus just said in in this same chapter that he and the Father are one.

So what is going on here?

In the simplest terms, Jesus is equal to the Father in his Godhood but submits to the Father in his his manhood.

The Father is greater only in terms of function.

Jesus is equal in essence but submissive in function.

Over and over, Jesus has said that HE does the will of the Father..

Look down to verse 31..

31 but so that the world may know that I love the Father, [d]I do exactly as the Father commanded Me

An earthly illustration of this would be me and a police officer.

We have equal worth before God in terms of being made in God's image and likeness.

Yet, I will pull my over to the side of the road if he pulls up behind me and turns on his lights..

I am equal yet submissive.

The same is true in the church.

We are all made in God's image, believe the same gospel, have the same eternal promise of heaven.

Yet, there is order within the church.

There are roles within the church in terms of leadership and service.

Christ is God but as the Son he submits to the Father.

So his return to the Father will signify the end and success of his mission to seek and save the lost, and that fulfillment of his mission should encourage and calm the disciples.

In fact, to further settle their hearts, Jesus tell them exactly how his mission and ministry will end..

Verse 29..

29 Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. 30 I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; 31 but so that the world may know that I love the Father, [d]I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

Look, I really appreciate dentists and doctors who lay out exactly what to expect from them when I go in to see them.

I ma already a little apprehensive, but when they lay out the plan, it calms my nerves even if it involves a little pain.

Jesus is going away.

The disciples are troubled, and the source of that trouble is not knowing what to expect.

So Jesus has told them.

Expect to go to heaven.

Expect to do incredible things in my name.

Expect to have help in the Father, Son, and Spirit.

Expect to remember what I have said.

Expect to be at peace with God.

But maybe the greatest help is to simply tell them what to expect next.

In this case, expect to see me stop speaking with y'all.

Expect to see Satan apparently winning.

Expect to see me doing exactly as the Father has commanded.

In other words, know that chaos is coming, but all of it is in the Father's plan..

Now, why is this truth comforting?

Why is it good to know that Jesus is going to the Father?

Why is it good to know that Jesus is going to stop speaking to them?

Why is it good to know that the ruler of this world, - Satan, is on his way?

All of this is calming because all of it verifies what the disciples already believe about Jesus.

It verifies that what he says is always brought to completion..

There is peace in seeing the predictions of Jesus fulfilled..

These 11 men are about to see hell unleashed on earth in the next 24 hours.

They are going to one of their own bring men to arrest Jesus.

They are going to see their own people stage a phony trial to find Jesus guilty.

They are going to see the Son of God beaten and spit and shamed by the Romans.

And they are going to see him hang on a cross until he breathes his last.

Their hope, their security, their trust is about to be shattered by all the forces of Satan..

Yet, in the calm before the storm, Jesus is promising these men that HE has it all under control and HE knows what is coming..

And that my friends brings peace.

A peace that the world doesn't have and can't understand.

Conclusion

These truths are the peace that Christ offered the men in that Upper Room, and these truths are the same truths that will bring peace to anyone in this room today.

The Spirit will provide peace if you open your Bible and learn from the word of God.

The Spirit will give you peace by bringing the Scripture to your memory at just the right if you will hide God's word in your heart.

Christ gives you peace this morning by reminding us of the fulfillment of all of his words..

And Christ gives us peace by offering his body and blood in our place.

Sin leads to chaos in your life.

The gospel of Christ leads to peace.

Everybody wants peace and calm.

This is why we work toward vacations to get away from the chaotic rat race.

This is why we put the kids in bed at 9.

This is why we stick in the earphones.

This is why we sit on the porch and rock all alone.

We are looking for peace, yet the world offers no lasting peace.

Vacations end.

Kids wake up.

The earphones don't hide all the sounds.

And you have to leave the rocking chair to cook supper.

Peace on a fallen earth is a myth.

Yet, peace with God is a reality.

Church, my prayer for you is that you would enjoy the peace that comes from the Spirit through the word we read and study.

My prayer is that you would seek the peace that comes through the cross when you are tempted to be anxious and worried.

My final prayer for the church is that we would preach that peace to the world..

But I want to close with this..

If you are in here this morning and lack peace in terms of your future.

If you lack the confidence that you know where you will be 5 seconds after you die..

My prayer for you is that you have no peace until you repent of your sin and trust in Christ.

My prayer is that God would withhold his peace until you see your need of Christ.

There is a peace that can fill your heart but you won't find it by looking around.

You will only find it by looking above.

So repent and trust alone in Christ today.

Let us pray.