

RCMI L-Path Teaching
December 18, 2022

Theme: Jesus' Faithful Promises

Big Idea: This series focuses on the parting speech of Jesus to His disciples that gives comfort and assurance for the future.

Title: THE PERFECT PEACE

Text: John 14:27

Intro:

1. Peace is a common word used nowadays in many ways and was used to represent the absence of war or conflict.
 - For example: when opposing countries sign a peace treaty or when two parties make up and are at peace with each other.
2. Peace is defined as "a state of tranquility or quiet: such as freedom from public disturbance and freedom from troubling or oppressive thoughts or emotions" - The Merriam-Webster Dictionary.
3. Peace for other people is defined as being without trouble, being free from conflict, and having no stress and depression.
4. Peace means different things to different people and cultures, and the actual meaning is much deeper and broader.
5. The word peace signified then—and now—not merely the absence of war but also the presence of good health, quietness, happiness, harmony, and safety.
6. Question: How do we find peace in this chaotic world where war, persecution, struggles, pressures, lack, problems, division, and evil are present?

TEXT: John 14:27 (NIV) - "Peace I leave with you; my Peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid."

John 14:27 (NLT) - "I am leaving you with a gift—Peace of mind and heart. And the Peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."

Juan 14:27 (Magandang Balita Biblia) - "Kapayapaan ang iniwan ko sa inyo. Ang aking kapayapaan ang ibinibigay ko sa inyo; hindi ito katulad ng kapayapaang ibinibigay ng mundo. Huwag mabagabag ang inyong kalooban at huwag kayong matakot."

Defining the peace which Christ gives - "my peace."

"**Peace** *I leave with you*; **my peace** *I give you*. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid."

- It is divine because it belongs to HIM (Jesus Christ). It belongs to the Eternal and Loving God.
- It is supernatural because it is specially His own to give. He is the source of Peace.
- **PEACE: Shalom** (Hebrew: שלום šālōm) - is a Hebrew word meaning peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, fulfillment, and satisfaction, or blessing; welfare and tranquility.
- In other words, it is a desire for all that is good to flow into your life.
- And it is used about 250 times. It is a very common word among Jewish people, and in fact, it has been the most normal greeting among Jewish people for centuries and decades.
- And we must not forget that Jesus Christ was in trouble at that time, yet He was perfectly calm.
- He was about to bear the burden of the world, the punishment, and the crucifixion at the cross, yet He still encouraged and inspired His disciples not to be afraid and confidently stay courageous, "Let not your heart be troubled, and do not be afraid."
- **Peace (Gk. Eirene from verb eiro)** = to join or bind together that which has been separated or divided, thus setting at one again.
- Eirene can convey a sense of inner rest, well-being, and harmony.
- The ultimate peace is the state of reconciliation with God, effected by placing one's faith in the gospel.
- "Peace I leave with you; my Peace I give you. ***I do not give to you as the world gives.*** Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid."
- The Peace offered by the world is an empty promise and can only bring temporary comfort. God's Peace is a permanent peace offered by JESUS - the One who can be trusted to keep his Word and promises.

BENEFITS OF THE PEACE OF GOD:

I. GOD'S PEACE CALMS OUR INNER STORM.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me." (v.1)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (v.27)

- Twice the Lord Jesus has said in John 14, verses 1 and 27, "Do not let your hearts be troubled...."
- The disciples had all the reason to be troubled because of what Jesus had just told them;
 - That one of them will be a traitor, that Peter will deny Him three times, and that all His disciples would leave Him that night.
 - This would undoubtedly trouble the disciples, yet Jesus told them, do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trouble (Gk: ταραάσω, tarassō) to stir or agitate (roil water)
(Strong's Concordance, Greek Dictionary)

Detailed definition:

- To cause one inward commotion, take away his calmness of mind, disturb his equanimity.
 - To disquiet, make restless.
 - To strike one's spirit with fear and dread.
 - To render anxious or distressed.
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- And going back to the time our Lord talks about peace, He is at the most affected, possibly troubling, distressing moment in His life.
 - Why? He is leaving the world in a few hours through persecution and execution on a cross, and He knows the full details of it.
 - But what's good about our Lord Jesus, He is determined to encourage His disciples to receive His blessing of peace.
 - Shalom means everything which makes for a man's highest good.
 - Eirene is the root of the English "serene" (clear and free of storms or unpleasant change, stressing unclouded and lofty tranquility!) and "serenity."
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- In times of profound grief, God's peace imparts comfort and relief.
 - When prayer seems lost and unheard, God's peace imparts hope.

"Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!" - Romans 4:18 (NLT)

- God's peace imparts love and forgiveness in times of betrayal and denial.
- Alexander Maclaren adds, "Peace comes not from the absence of trouble, but from the presence of God.
- Jesus never wanted us to have life without trouble, but He promised that we could have an untroubled heart even in a troubled life.

Psalms 42:11 (NIV) - "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."

II. GOD'S PEACE BRINGS RECONCILIATION AND FORGIVENESS.

What separates man from God?

- Sin separates man from fellowship with God, and sin separates us from the blessing of God.

Isaiah 59:1-2 (NIV)

Sin, Confession, and Redemption

1 Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

- Isaiah points out that God is powerful enough to hear and save everyone. Yet, God is unable to save some because of their sin. Sin hides His face from them to keep Him from hearing the person.
- But your iniquities (Heb. 'Avon (aw-vone') means perversity, i.e. (moral) evil -- fault, iniquity, mischief, sin.

Isaiah 53:5 (NIV) - "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us **peace** was on him, and by his wounds, we are healed."

- Examine our life and see if we allow sin to reign in some areas of our life. Let us be willing to go to Jesus and seek forgiveness.
- He is willing and ready to forgive and remove all our sins.

Romans 5:8 (NIV) - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8 (Amplified Bible) - "But God clearly shows and proves His own love for us, by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

III. GOD'S PEACE LIGHTENS OUR BURDEN.

When worry occupies too much space in your heart and mind, when we struggle with fear and uncertainties of life, there's help through our GOD who makes promises of peace from His Word.

Matthew 11:28-30 (Amplified Bible) - 28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavily burdened [by religious rituals that provide no peace], and I will give you rest [refreshing your souls with salvation]. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me [following Me as My disciple], for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest (**renewal, blessed quiet**) for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy [to bear], and My burden is light."

- When we are exhausted, damaged, and tired of fighting, when we struggle with overwhelming thoughts of pressure, stress, and life situations, these enormous battles drain all our energies. God has made his promise of peace for us to endure and win.
- Relationships, jobs, marriage, fears, worries about the future, lack, discouragement, illness, money problems, etc. can leave us completely dry and weary. God's presence and His Word are the only things that can bring deep peace to our souls.

- The rest He gives is the kind the world can't offer, the kind of rest that doesn't make sense even to our minds.
- E.g. Footprints in the sands.
- E.g. Road to Emmaus

*When the east wind of trouble blows our way; when buried under a blizzard of heartache; when the chill of depression and discouragement freezes our heart, **YOU NEED THE HEAT OF A HUG. YOU NEED THE WARMTH OF A WORD** from someone who will encourage you.*

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV) - "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

IV. GOD'S PEACE GUARDS OUR HEARTS AND MINDS.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

- The word "**heart**" occurs 862 times in the Bible. Half of those times are mentioned in the Wisdom Literature and the Prophets.
- Anxious (GK. Merimna - μεριμνα) is translated as "care, anxiety, and worry." That means "to divide, to separate."
 - The verb form μεριμναω means "to be anxious, to be troubled" and "careful thought."
 - So μεριμνα represents a mental state or condition in which someone is occupied with or is dwelling upon something.
- **Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)** - "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."
 - The Hebrew translation of guard means to keep above all keeping.
 - So, above ALL, you guard – your marriage, family, relationship with GOD and people, etc. Guard it with all your heart.
- When dealing with life's trials and testing, we can be assured that we have God who can hear our petitions and prayers. God is in control of everything in us.
- "Inner calm or tranquility is promised to the believer who has a **thankful attitude** based on unwavering confidence that God is able and willing to do what is best for His children" (MacArthur Study Bible note on Philippians 4:7).
- God's Peace will protect or keep us as long as we trust Him.
- Trust the God of Peace and experience the Peace of God. They go together hand in hand.

CONCLUSION:

John 16:33 (NIV) - "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have Peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Isaiah 26:3 (NIV) - "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in you."

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think are the stealers of peace, especially in this special season?
2. How can we experience God's peace in our present situations and circumstances?