

Peace That Only Jesus Can Give

Peace is one of those things that many people seek but very few people find. Why is that? It's because most people look for peace in all the wrong places, when there is only one place to find true peace. Listen to what Jesus said in John: **"Peace I leave 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).

Notice:

- Jesus says, **"MY PEACE** I give you." Yes, Jesus' peace is a peace that only he can give, and no one else. And Jesus wants you to know that because it comes from him, you can trust the peace he gives because you can trust him.
- Jesus says, **"My peace I GIVE YOU."** The peace that Jesus gives is specifically and personally given to you. And that's exactly how he wants you to understand it. Too often we think that when Jesus says, **"My peace I give you,"** he has to be talking about someone else. He is not. He talking specifically to you, as if to no one else. That's how personal his peace is.
- Jesus says, **"I DO NOT** give to you as the world gives." And it's a good thing he doesn't, because the peace Jesus gives is divine versus the peace the world gives, which is, well, worldly. The peace Jesus gives is between you and God, and the peace Jesus gives is eternal. The world cannot give this peace.
- Jesus says, **"Do not let your hearts be TROUBLED** and do not be **AFRAID."** The peace that Jesus gives you encourages you that when everything feels out of control, remember who is in control; when everything seems like it's going to hell, remember who has promised you're going to heaven; when it seems like wickedness and evil are winning, remember who has already won. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! So do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

That's John 14:27 in a nutshell. But now let's get even more specific with what it means:

Take the story of the paralytic in Luke. Do you understand what burdened the paralytic more than his paralysis, even more than the humiliating experience of being lowered by his four friends through a hole in a roof just so he can see Jesus? It was lying before the holy Son of God in that house, knowing personally that worse than being a cripple, he was a sinful human being. How can I say that? Because before Jesus' healed the paralytic, he said to him, **"Friend, your sins are forgiven."** Jesus knew the man's spiritual condition as clearly as he knew his physical condition. And what did Jesus do? He took care of the man's greater, more important need first. The world wouldn't do this, nor could the world do this. But Jesus did.

Listen to Jesus words, **"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).

Do you see what these words specifically and personally meant to the paralytic? Then I can only pray that they specifically and personally mean the same to you. You are no different than that paralytic. You have your own physical problems, but your sins are your biggest problem. It's not even close. Jesus sees this in you, and before he addresses anything else in your life, he addresses this one thing first and says, **"Friend, your sins are forgiven. My peace I give you."**

Or take the story of the widow at Nain. Can you imagine the pain and the sorrow of this woman? Not only had she lost her husband, but now she lost her son. In her grief, what do you think was going through her mind during her son's funeral procession? What questions do you think she was asking? What emotions do you think she was fighting? I can only imagine that if you asked her, she'd say, "You don't want to know," because it was nothing good. But Jesus meets the funeral procession, sees the widow's pain and sorrow, and says, **"Don't cry."** The world would have said, **"I'm so sorry."** But no, Jesus says, **"Don't cry."** Why? Because he said, **"Young man, I say to you, get up,"** and the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. There's exactly what Jesus meant when he later said to Martha in John 11, **"I am the resurrection and life."**

What does Jesus say in John 14:27? **"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."**

Do you see what these words specifically and personally meant to the widow at Nain? Then I can only pray that they specifically and personally mean the same to you. You are no different than the widow at Nain. All of you have lost a loved one. Many of you have lost loved ones. And you know that the pain and the sorrow are more than you can bear on your own. But Jesus comes to you and says, **"Don't cry. My peace I give you. I am the resurrection and the life."** Death has nothing over Jesus. Nothing!

Or how about the familiar story of Zacchaeus. Here is a man who knew he was taking advantage of people and their hard-earned money, but didn't care, because he knew he could get away with it. As long as Rome was receiving its tax revenue, he could charge the people whatever extra he wanted. But then all of the sudden Zacchaeus is struck with tremendous guilt. We're not sure why. But it could be that you only can be hated and despised by others so long (which Zacchaeus was) until you start to see yourself for who you really are and end up despising and hating yourself. We do know that Zacchaeus' guilt weighed heavy on his heart. Jesus knew it too. That's why he went to Zacchaeus' house. And even then when the world continued to ridicule Zacchaeus, couldn't even believe that Jesus would dine with such a sinner, what did Jesus say of Zacchaeus? Jesus said, **"Today salvation has come to this house."**

Again, Jesus says, **"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."**

Do you see what these words specifically and personally meant to Zacchaeus? Then I can only pray that they specifically and personally mean the same to you. You are no different than Zacchaeus. You know the times you have taken advantage of others, and you only did because you knew you

could get away with it. You know those whom you have hurt for your selfish gain. And you know what it is to suddenly see yourself for who you truly are, and hate and despise what you see. But Jesus comes to you today and says to you, **“Salvation has come to this house. My peace I give you.”**

Finally, there’s the story of the thief on the cross. You know the story well. But there is something I want you to consider. What pain was greater: The thief actually hanging on the cross or the thief knowing that he was getting what he deserves while hanging on the cross? What pain was greater: The thief knowing he was going to die from his crucifixion or expecting that Jesus would forget him? But what did Jesus assure the thief? He said, **“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”**

I implore you, listen to Jesus one more time, **“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.”**

Do you see what these words specifically and personally meant to the thief on the cross? Then I can only pray that they specifically and personally mean the same to you. You are no different than the thief on the cross. How many of you know what your sins deserve? How many of you expect, even understand, why Jesus should forget you? How many of you know that you are in no position to make any demands of Jesus, but only the repentant plea, “Remember me”? Then listen to what Jesus says, **“You will be with me in paradise. My peace I give to you.”**

Peace is such a popular theme during the Christmas season. But unfortunately, most only enjoy a cheap, fuzzy, feely imitation of it for a brief moment and then return to their topsy-turvy lives. That’s because the world cannot give the peace Jesus gives. By God’s grace and his Spirit, you know a different peace, a peace that only Jesus can give.

So may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding guard your heart and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.