



Calvary of Albuquerque

Peace Where You Least Expect It - John 14:27-31

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

On countless American gravestones this epitaph could be written: Hurried, Worried, Buried. What a sad way to live! Fear, anxiety, and distress have literally become part of our national culture. Odd, isn't it? Though we have such abundance in this country, most don't experience abundant life—especially as Jesus described it. Sure, everyone has his or her share of trouble and anxieties, but let's consider one of the greatest gifts Jesus gives to followers—the gift of peace!

OUTLINE

- I. Peace in a Troubled World (v. 27)
 - A. The Description of Peace
 - B. The Demeanor of Peace
- II. Peace in Temporal Waiting (vv. 28-29)
 - A. Jesus' Return to His Father
 - B. Jesus' Return to His Followers
 - C. Jesus' Return is Foretold
- III. Peace in Spiritual Warfare (vv. 30-31)
 - A. The Activity of the Prince of this World
 - B. The Tranquility of the Prince of Peace



Pondering the Principles:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being very peaceful and 1 being frantic) how peaceful are you most of the time? What is your peace based on? Is it self-invented? Is it firmly rooted? How do you know it's His peace?
2. What things rob you of peace? How do these words of Jesus help you?
3. Memorize Isaiah 26:3.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. "The misery index"
 - 1. Phrase coined by 1960s economic advisor to President Lyndon Johnson, Arthur Oaken
 - 2. Unemployment rate added to the inflation rate
 - 3. National economic indicator
 - 4. Currently 12.67
 - a. Lowest in 1953: 2.97
 - b. Highest in 1980: 21.98
 - B. Peace
 - 1. Opposite word
 - 2. Cure for misery
 - 3. The most sought after experience (more than money, fame, power, status)
 - 4. Google results:
 - 1. Peace: 791 million
 - 2. World peace: 112 million
 - 3. Personal peace: 410 million
 - 4. Spiritual peace: 84.1 million
 - 5. Nobel Peace Prize (created by Alfred Nobel, who invented dynamite. Upon seeing his errant obituary, he decided to leave a

better legacy)

6. Outwardly elusive
 - a. 3100 years of recorded history, 286 years (8%) peace
 - b. 8000 peace treaties formed, signed, and broken
7. Inwardly available
 - a. Bible speaks of peace 397 times
 - b. A real experience for those who trust God
 - c. Jesus called the Prince of Peace (see Isaiah 9:6)
 - i. If you want peace, get to know the Prince
 - ii. People sing, talk, and search for peace, but never receive the Prince
 - d. Caesar Augustus heard of a man who slept peacefully each night and wanted to buy his bed: but it is about the man, not the bed

II. Peace in a Troubled World

A. The Description of Peace (v. 27)

1. eiréné - peace of mind
 - a. Common greeting
 - i. Used three times in John 20 as a greeting
 - ii. Paul opens His epistles "grace and peace"
 - b. Here it is a promise, not a salutation
 - i. Paraphrase: "Let Me cause you to have a quiet, peaceful, restful, tranquil heart and mind."
 - ii. "I am leaving you with a gift -- peace of mind and heart." (NLT translation)
 - iii. God's promise to you in spite of circumstances
2. Peace with God
 - a. Objective
 - b. Not a feeling (but may or may not be accompanied by feeling)
 - c. Surrender to God on His terms: receive Christ
 - d. "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," (Romans 5:1)
 - e. When Jesus is Savior, we have peace with God
3. Peace of God
 - a. Subjective
 - b. Feeling
 - c. Cannot experience without peace with God
 - d. The experience of tranquility and rest
 - e. "Be anxious for nothing, 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 minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)
 - f. When Jesus is Lord you have peace of God

B. The Demeanor of Peace

1. My own peace
 - a. "I am going to cause you to be restful, tranquil, quiet, and peaceful inside your hearts and minds with the same kind of rest, tranquility, and peace that I have inside My heart and mind."
 - b. The effect Christ has upon a life
 - c. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness," (Galatians 5:22)
 - d. "Peace is not the absence of trouble; peace is the presence of God." —J. Oswald Sanders
2. At peace when the world seems to be falling apart around you
 - a. Believers should have that
 - b. God is not frowning at you: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)
3. Other worldly peace
 - a. Only available through Christ
 - b. The world's peace is temporary, transient
 - i. The bliss of ignorance: unaware of the wrath poised against the unbelieving world
 - ii. "There is no peace," says the Lord, "for the wicked." (Isaiah 48:22)
4. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
 - a. Stop an action already going on
 - b. You have a part to play
 - i. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come
 - ii. We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit
 - c. When you have every earthly reason to be troubled, fear is the natural response; peace is the supernatural response to trouble
5. Jesus came to the apostles on the very thing they feared the most walking on the water of the storm (see John 6:15-21)

III. Peace in Temporal Waiting (vv. 28-29)

A. Jesus' Return to His Father

1. If you love Me, you would be happy I go to the Father
2. True nature of love: best for the one being loved: love does not seek its own (See 1 Corinthians 13:5)
3. Jesus left heaven, came, suffered and was going back to the Father
4. Application: when we grieve the loss of a loved one who has gone to heaven, we can rejoice as we grieve because they are with the Father

B. Jesus' Return to His Followers

1. Resurrection (3 days)
2. Pentecost, Holy Spirit (50 days)

3. To rule the earth (still waiting)
 - a. We don't like to wait
 - b. The world is getting worse
- C. Jesus' Return is Foretold
 1. He promised
 2. All he said he would do, He did
 - a. Betrayal
 - b. Crucifixion
 - c. Resurrection
 - d. Return
 3. "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)
 4. Fulfilled promises in the past ensure fulfilled promises in the future
- IV. Peace in Spiritual Warfare (vv. 30-31)
 - A. The Activity of the Prince of this World
 1. Satan: The Ruler of this World
 - a. Term used in reference to Satan (see John 12:31)
 - b. God of this age (see 2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - i. Adam and Eve handed him dominion when they fell
 - ii. "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12)
 2. Betrayal
 - a. In context refers to Judas' betrayal of Christ (see John 18)
 - b. Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." (John 13:26-27)
 - c. Judas is a pawn; Satan is the powerhouse
 - B. The Tranquility of the Prince of Peace
 1. Nothing in Me; no hold on Me
 - a. Satan cannot manipulate Jesus
 - b. Jesus was crucified in obedient love to the Father
 2. As a child of God, Satan will buffet, tempt, and harass, but he has no control of you
 - a. "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)
 - b. We cannot say "the devil made me do it"
 - c. Don't underestimate the devil; he is a powerful foe
 - d. Don't overestimate the devil
 3. Bracing to bear up under trouble of the world and spiritual warfare
 - a. Marriage, family, friends
 - b. The peace of God
 4. Rejoice
 - a. Seems out of place to us
 - b. "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials," (1 Peter 1:6)

Greek Terms: eiréné - peace of mind

Figures Referenced: Arthur Oaken; Alfred Nobel; J. Oswald Sanders

Cross References: Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 48:22; Jeremiah 29:11; John 6:15-21; John 12:31; John 13:26-27; John 16:33; John 18; Romans 5:1; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 1:6; 1 John 4:4