

Title: Finding Your Missing Peace

Passages: John 14:25-27; 16:33

Introduction:

Galatians 5:22-23 (Fruit of the Spirit)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Context of Passage:

- words of Jesus spoken during Last Supper as He is alone with His disciples
- just preceding the torture by crucifixion, betrayal of Judas Iscariot, abandonment by disciples
- notice Jesus' heart was on His children and not on Himself.

Passages:

John 14:25-27

These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 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 have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that *in me* you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

Introduction

- Jesus: Prince of Peace (only one given that title)

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, *Prince of Peace*.

Matthew 8:24-26 (Jesus calms the storm)

And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Overview: Peace that Jesus speaks of - questions:

I. What is this peace?

II. Where is it found?

III. How is it that you and I can receive it?

I. What is this peace that Jesus speaks of?

- Greek word: "irena" = Hebrew word: shalom
- meaning: presence and blessing of God in the midst of difficulty and turbulence
- *not* absence of difficulty or turbulence or conflict

Threefold aspects of peace:

1) Peace with God

- right relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:14-18 (previously, we were under the wrath of God)

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

2) Peace with others

Romans 12:18

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Hebrews 12:14

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

3) Peace within ourselves

Philippians 4:6-7

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.

John 14:25-27

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Distinction: Not the peace of good circumstances

- Jesus' peace is not dependent upon our circumstances or situations where we find ourselves.

2 Timothy 3:12

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

- Instead, true peace holds sway *despite* circumstances, conflict, surroundings.

Isaiah 43:2-3a

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

II. Where is it found/What is the source?

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

- "my peace" = Jesus is the only source of this peace.

III. How is it that you and I can receive it?

- by God's grace and mercy

God's pathway to peace - statements to meditate/consider:

1) Turn to Christ

- related step: turn away your minds or eyes set on things of this world

Hebrews 12:2-3

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Colossians 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. *Set your minds on things that are above*, not on things that are on earth.

Question: Where does fear come from?

Answer: Sin. Sin is the root of all fear (whether sin committed against you or sin you yourself has committed)

Genesis 3:8-10

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

Next steps to consider:

If sinned against: turn to Christ for peace in the midst of pain and for healing

If you have sinned: turn to Christ in repentance

2) Talk with Christ with thanksgiving and with others

- there is nothing too large or too small for God to hear.

Philippians 4:6-7

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.

With thanksgiving

Psalms 73:27-28 (submit prayers even in thankfulness)

For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

With others

Ecclesiastes 4:9-11

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?

3) Think about Christ

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

- Jesus reflects each of these things

Isaiah 26:3

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

2 Timothy 1:7

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control [sound mind].

Psalms 1:2

but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

Psalms 63:6

when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

4) Trust in Christ

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that *in me* you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Psalms 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Benediction

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may *the God of peace* who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, *working in us* that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.