

MONDAY 7.18.22 – JOHN 14:25-27

What does it mean to experience the kind of peace that Jesus promised to give his disciples? What is this peace, this other-worldly yet in this world, peace?

Often people misunderstand this promised peace. They take the quick and easy route of emotional or even physical detachment from whatever is troubling their hearts. "I don't care." "It doesn't matter anyway." But that won't work because they DO care and it DOES matter or it wouldn't trouble their hearts in the first place. True peace is not pretending.

Over the years, I have come to see this peace quite differently. I notice now more than ever that Jesus prefaces His promise of peace with the assurance of the coming Advocate, the Holy Spirit, sent to teach and to assure the disciples. Thus the peace that Jesus gives is rooted in connectedness, in relationship, that precedes and endures through the circumstances of life. It is God's voice whispering in our ear "You are not alone."

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 7.19.22 – 1 PETER 4:12-13

As Christians, our peace, for the here and now, often comes from our expectation of the future. My spiritual mentor during my early years as a Christian often said, 'The last chapter has not been written yet'. This statement has provided me, and many others I have counseled with, much comfort during times of difficulty. The assurance that God is not only in control, but also at work is reassuring. Knowing this and expecting Him to do good things is a great source of comfort and peace. The writer of Hebrews put it this way Hebrews 11:1, Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. As Christians we have confidence in our Lord and assurance that He loves us and is at work on our behalf. Are you in a difficult place today? Don't forget that the last chapter has not been written yet.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 7.20.22 – ACTS 13:16-52

Paul's first recorded sermon is found in Acts chapter 13. He spoke to an assembly of both Jews and Gentiles in a synagogue in Pisidian Antioch. Paul's message is replete with Scripture. He quotes from 1 Samuel, Isaiah, Habakkuk, and Psalms. The thrust of his sermon is forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus Christ whom God raised from the dead (vv 37-39). The message of salvation has not changed in 2,000 years. A person is not brought into a proper relationship with God by good works, religious rituals, moral lifestyle, or charitable giving. Faith alone in Jesus alone is the only way a person is justified in God's sight. Have you placed your trust in Jesus to forgive your sins? If so, pause right now and thank Him for the gift of eternal life. If not, trust in Jesus right now, and you will be guaranteed a home in heaven.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 7.21.22 – ISAIAH 53:6

So there's a lot of teachers, and even preachers today, who would tell us we should believe in ourselves. We should have confidence in ourselves. We should be proud of ourselves. But that's not what the Bible is saying here. The Bible is saying you're like a foolish sheep. You think you know what you're doing, but you are clueless. You are so prone to wander, just like sheep. You look at sheep in the world ... I've never been a sheep herder myself, but reading about them, seeing them, sheep are not the smartest of animals. They're prone to wander all the time. Wander off aimlessly. They have no defense mechanisms when they're in danger. They're only possibility is to run from that which is endangering them, but they're slow. Sheep are not smart animals. They're prone to wander. We are prone to turn aside from God's way to our own way. But Jesus has paid the price for every time we've wandered.

And that's the picture God, in his Word, is giving us of ourselves. All of us. So not just some of us. Don't think that any one of us is excluded here. All of us are like sheep who've gone astray. So the sharpest, smartest, richest, most intelligent in the world is like a dumb sheep that's prone to go astray. And the beauty of this verse is that God has chosen to pour out the judgment that we deserve in our sin, for our rebellion against him, the Lord has laid on Jesus the inequity of us all. Jesus has paid the price for every time we have turned aside from God's way to our own way. God has chosen to pour the judgment we deserve for that upon Jesus in our place.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 7.22.22 – PSALM 118:22-24

OPEN THE GATES. The nation's leaders rejected the psalmist as builders discard a useless stone. But God made him a cornerstone (verse 22). When he came to the temple's gates, where only the righteous might pass (verses 19-20), he was welcomed up to the horns of the altar (verse 27).¹²³ Later Jesus came to Jerusalem to the shouts of Psalm 118:26: "Blessed is he who comes." He too was rejected by the leaders and went to the altar, but as a sacrifice for sin (Isaiah 53:10; Hebrews 9:12), making us righteous so we can go in to God (Hebrews 10:22). When we pray, the "gates of the righteous" are opened. Through his sacrifice we have access to the Father by the Spirit (Ephesians 2:18).

PRAYER: Lord, I praise you that your Son willingly paid a terrible price in order for me to gain access to you in prayer. If he was willing to come all the way from heaven to earth to do that, can I not rouse myself a bit earlier every morning to use this blood-bought gift? Lord, make me a person of prayer. Amen.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:40AM*

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level
**available during 9:40 AND 11:00 services*
- NURSERY (through Age 3)
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** EXPLORE THE BIBLE—Room B8-10 (Lower Level)
1 and 2 Kings with Lane Kemler
- MASTERWORK—Room B11 (Lower Level)
"Pray Big" with Carl Hosler
- POWER OF KNOWING GOD—Room B1-2 (Lower Level)
with Gene Steinruck

SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00PM

- Kids** KID'S CLUB (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level
CURRENT SERIES: Answers for Kids
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th–8th Grade meet downstairs
9th–12th Grade meet upstairs
- Adults** DIVE DEEP WITH DOUG
LOCATION: Worship Center
CURRENT SERIES: *Journeys of Paul*
- BIG IDEA – SMALL GROUP(S) - **Resuming in August**
LOCATION: Room B8-10 (Lower Level)
Group discussion following the scriptures and themes of Sunday morning's message. Jump in any time as we go through the Book of ACTS together.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS – 6:30PM

- WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? (beginning July 6th)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY GROUPS OR CLASSES,
PLEASE USE THE CONNECT CARD IN YOUR BULLETIN. THANK YOU!

SERMON NOTES

SERIES: POWER: A Continued Study in Acts 12-18
SERMON: "Great Expectations" (Power In Expectations)
SCRIPTURE: Acts 13:4-16

On their first missionary journey in Acts 13, Barnabas and Saul show you what to expect in the Christian life.

1. O _____ (vv 4-8)

You're in a spiritual war, and you have an enemy—the devil.

- JOHN 15:20; 1 PETER 5:8; JOHN 10:10

2. H _____ (vv 9-12)

Your opponent might be strong, but the good news is:
"Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

- EPHESIANS 6:13-18

3. D _____ (v 13)

You must gain a proper perspective concerning life's matters.

- ROMANS 8:28

4. O _____ (vv 14-16)

- ACTS 13:38-39

THE THREE OPEN PRAYER:


"Lord, open the _____;
open their _____;
open my _____."

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day
TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



July 18th - 22nd

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip  every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on today's message from Acts 13 and the Power in Expectation. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us to continue in this series as we continue in Acts 13 and consider the Power in Mission.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

"All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name."

—ACTS 10:43