

Sermon Notes 12-23

Peace- John 14:23-31

23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. 25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 **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.** 28 “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. 30 I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, 31 but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me . . .

There is Peace in the House of the Lord

Introduction

A young man was eager to grow in His Christian life. He got a piece of paper and made a list of all the things he would do for God. He wrote down the things he would give up, the places he would go to minister and the areas of ministry he would enter. He was excited. He took that list to the church and put it on the altar.

He thought he would feel joy, but instead he felt empty. So he went home and started adding to his list. He wrote down more things he would do and wouldn't do. He took the longer list and put it on the altar, but still he felt nothing.

He then went to a wise, old pastor, told him the situation and asked for help. The pastor said, “Take a blank sheet of paper. Sign your name at the bottom. Put that on the altar.” The young man did that, and it was then that peace came to his heart.

This story is in contrast to Lucy, the title girl in the Peanut's cartoons.

In one cartoon Lucy says to Charlie Brown, “I hate everything. I hate everybody. I hate the whole world!”

Charlie says, “But I thought you had inner peace.”

Lucy replies, “I do have inner peace but I still have outer obnoxiousness.”

1. I want to focus on verses 27-29 today.

27 “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, give I to you. Don't let your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful. 28 You heard how I told you, ‘I go away, and I come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I said ‘I am going to my Father;’ for the Father is greater than I. 29 Now I have told you before it happens so that, when it happens, you may believe.”

A. “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you”. (Verse 27)

1) This is Jesus' Last Will and Testament.

- He had very little to leave.
- Even his clothes would soon be the property of the crucifixion squad of soldiers.
- But there was one thing he could give.
- He gave the disciples and us His Peace.

- This is a mighty gift indeed.
- And Jesus will reveal in the next chapter, he will also leave his disciples with love.

B. “Not as the world gives, give I to you” (Verse 27).

- 1) At this time, the world is enjoying a kind of peace.
 - It is called the *pax Romana* or the Roman peace.
- 2) The *pax Romana*, however, was founded on Roman military prowess, funded by Roman taxation, and maintained by Roman soldiers.
- 3) In reality, it was dominance rather than peace.
 - Many people chafed under Roman rule and wanted to expel Roman occupiers from their land, but Rome had the power to crush any rebellion and used that power ruthlessly.
- 4) By contrast, Christ offers real peace.
 - You can see it in the lives of those who have entrusted their lives to Christ.
 - Those without the Peace of Christ envy their calm strength.
 - Their creed is found in Romans 8:31 “If God is for us, who can be against us,”
 - And because of this, they have peace.

2. But Jesus does not offer a life without hardship.

A. Notice that when Jesus makes this promise, He is on his way to the cross.

- 1) His disciples will soon face opposition from powerful enemies.

B. Notice that Jesus says “If you loved me” (Verse 28).

- 1) This phrase implies that they do not love him, at least not to the extent that they are focused on his welfare rather than their own.

C. And then Jesus says “you would you would have rejoiced, because I said ‘I am going to my Father’” (Verse 28).

- 1) Jesus has finished his mission on earth, and is returning to the glory that is his natural heritage.
- 2) Anyone who truly loved Jesus would have rejoiced in his return to glory.
- 3) In his high priestly prayer in John 17, Jesus will pray,

“Now, Father, glorify me with your own self with the glory which I had with you before the world existed”.
- 4) Paul assures us in Philippians 2 that this prayer was answered.

“Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave to him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, those on earth, and those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11).
- 5) Jesus’ glorification takes place through his death, resurrection, and ascension, which end in his return to the glory.

3. I want to return to Verse 27 for a moment and Jesus’ words “Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

A. In was in the last hours of his life that Jesus was helping us to become a “fearless” and as well as a “peaceful” person.

B. The peace Jesus has in mind may include the final peace of all things in the new heaven and the new earth. But that is not what he is focusing on.

- 1) We know that because he says, “Let not your heart be troubled. Neither let it be afraid.”
- 2) Jesus Christ always has in front row view your heart, and the peace of your heart, and the fearlessness of your heart, and the untroubled waters of your heart.

- 3) He wants his people, here and now, to be free from anxiety.

C. And this Peace is Not the “Peace” of Good Circumstances

1) And Jesus knows that the only kind of peace the world can give is peace of mind based on good circumstances.

2) If the world can take away our troubles, through health insurance, or retirement accounts, or flood protection, or bomb shelters, or labor-saving devices, then the world can give some peace of mind.

3) But Jesus says “Not as the world gives do I give to you.”

4) Which means that his peace is not based on good circumstances.

5) It is given by Christ, and it firmly remains, in spite of bad circumstances.

6) Here is how Jesus says it in [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 in that tribulation; I have overcome the world.”

D. This is the Peace of Christ, Not Our Own Manufactured Peace

1) In other words, The Peace of Christ will make no sense to the world.

2) That is why Paul calls in [Philippians 4:7](#), “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.”

3) Human understanding cannot produce it or grasp it. Why not?

4) The ultimate reason is that it is not human peace. It is God’s peace. It is The peace between Jesus and his Father.

5) Verse 27 “Peace I leave with you; *my* peace I give to you.”

6) It is My peace. I am not creating your peace.

- I am sharing with you my peace.

- I am bringing you into my peace.

- Jesus will bring you into the very peace that he enjoys with his Father.

E. But this was in the context of His upcoming arrest and death.

1) They were about to kill Jesus.

2) So, what kind of peace is that?

3) Well between Jesus and His Father is was Perfect peace.

4) Jesus knew that soon He would go to the cross, and there He will open the door for His sheep to enter His peace with His Father.

5) Jesus will satisfy God’s justice, and He will purchase our forgiveness, and He will provide our righteousness. And He will bring us into the very peace that He enjoys with His Father.

6) And nothing, and nobody, will be able to take it from you.

“My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Therefore, let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” ([John 14:27](#)).

F. Jesus is speaking to us today as He did to the disciples years ago,

- Receive my faith that I have in my Father’s sovereignty over Satan.

- Receive my joy that I have in my Father’s greatness.

- And receive my peace that I have with my Father’s favor.

Praise God. We have an amazing Savior. And a great salvation. Amen