

## **SLIDE** Sermon – Jesus Peace – John 14

Joke:

After a very long and boring sermon the congregation filed out of the church saying nothing to the preacher. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons.

"Pastor, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God!"

The pastor was thrilled.

"No-one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why."

"Well - it reminded me of the Peace of God because it passed all understanding and the Love of God because it endured forever!"

Peace – Say it to yourself – “Peace.”

Peace in this setting is not restricted to anti-violence. We call that peace. That understanding of the word underestimates its power. Make no mistake. Peace holds power.

It holds power because true peace comes only from God. It's a gift. The best gifts come from God. Salvation is a gift from God. Everything good in your life is a gift from the Father. Peace is a gift.

**SLIDE:** “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

There are ways to consider peace as described in John 14:27. We will examine them this morning.

- I. **SLIDE:** Actual Peace - Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you
  - a. Hebrew word for peace in the Old Testament is “Shalom”
    - i. It was always used to describe relationships
      1. Genesis 34 – Relationships between people
      2. 1 Kings 5 – Relationships between nations
      3. Psalm 85:8 – Man with God
    - ii. Standard greeting in many cultures – still is today
      1. “Be at Ease”
  - b. Webster’s Dictionary
    - i. **SLIDE:** Peace = Freedom from disturbance
      1. Are you disturbed today?
        - a. How could you not be?
        - b. We live in a disturbing world.
  - c. Actual peace begins and ends with God

- i. Announcement of Jesus by angels to the Shepherds
  - 1. **SLIDE:** Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
    - a. “The world can relax now, the Savior is here.”
      - i. Those that accepted Jesus was the Savior found spiritual calm like never before.
        - 1. That has not changed.
          - a. If you are spiritually uneasy, Jesus can provide the spiritual calm you’ve been looking for.
- d. Answering the Holy Spirit’s call to salvation is showing obedience to God.
  - i. Obedience brings peace.
    - 1. Christians need to remember this as well.
      - a. **SLIDE:** Isaiah 32:17 The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.
        - i. You tell me if you lack any of the following in your heart or mind:
          - 1. Calm?
          - 2. Quietness?
          - 3. Confidence?

ii. These three things are promised to the obedient.

1. If you are struggling with these, have a conversation with the Lord. What does He ask of you?

a. “I am being faithful Pastor Matt.”

i. Is the enemy after your personal ministry to the Lord?

ii. Is he creating confusion?

II. **SLIDE:** Artificial - “not as the world giveth, give I unto you.”

a. John 8:44 - Satan is the father of lies

i. Creates False peace among people

1. **SLIDE** Obadiah 1:7 All your allies have driven you to your border; those at peace with you have deceived you; they have prevailed against you; those who eat your bread have set a trap beneath you—you have no understanding.

a. Satan can pit us against each other

i. Need to have true peace among ourselves

1. No deceit

ii. Creates false peace among Christians through false teachers

1. **SLIDE** Ezekiel 13:10-12 Because they lead my people astray, saying, “Peace,” when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash, therefore tell those who cover it with whitewash that it is going to fall. Rain will come in torrents, and I will send hailstones hurtling down, and violent winds will burst forth. When the wall collapses, will people not ask you, “Where is the whitewash you covered it with?”

a. God was trying to show Israel they were sinning. He was leading them into captivity as a result of their sin.

i. Their prophets – false prophets were coming out saying “everything’s fine. We have peace. We’ll be out of this in no time.”

1. They were white-washing the problems.

They were experiencing consequence.

a. Life is not always lollipops and rainbows

i. Sometimes we mess up and have to face the music!

2. **SLIDE** Jeremiah recorded they were doing the same thing in Jeremiah 6:14 They dress the wound of my

people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace.

a. Are we at peace in America today? Nope. Why?

Because bad things are happening to good people? Could it be that we have:

- i. **SLIDE** Left our first love? – Rev. 2:4
- ii. **SLIDE** Worship false gods? – Exodus 20:3
- iii. **SLIDE** Blaspheme the name of God? – Mark 3:29
- iv. **SLIDE** Have more than one master, hating the original? – Matt. 6:24
- v. **SLIDE** Serve ourselves, rather than serving others? – 1 Peter 4:10
- vi. Have given in completely to:
  1. **SLIDE** sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like – Galatians 5:19-20
- vii. **SLIDE** Are we more worried about what our friends think of us more than what God thinks of us? – Proverbs 29:25

viii. **SLIDE** More concerned with how many problems we could have rather than how many problems God has already solved? – Psalm 103:2

b. Why don't we have peace.

i. Is it because of God? Or because of us?

1. It's time to look in the world's biggest mirror!

III. **SLIDE**: Actionable - Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid

a. Do you inspire peace?

i. I would love to inspire peace in my household.

1. There is six years difference between my younger brother and me. 14 years difference between Savanah and me. Did anyone grow up with siblings only aged a year apart?

a. My sons are 11 months apart. Talk about competition! They compete at EVERYTHING. Competition is fine unless you desperately hope the other person fails at everything they do.

i. That does not inspire peace.

ii. We are called to create peace.

1. **SLIDE** Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
  - a. Repeat it to yourself over and over again.
2. What is it that creates calm in you?
  - a. Are you creating that in others?
3. What is it that brings quietness over you?
  - a. How do you inspire that in others?
    - i. Quiet game.
4. What sparks confidence within you?
  - a. I would ask those with low self-esteem to raise their hands but by definition you would be too worried about how it would make you look. 😊
  - b. I think lack of confidence is a serious problem in this culture.
    - i. Causes men to act bigger than they are.  
When they are humbled they respond in violence.
    - ii. Causes women to dress or act in ways to call attention to themselves instead of realizing that God had illuminated them to the right people. They spend time giving pieces of themselves away to the wrong people.
  - c. There is no peace there. Is God speaking to you?



- b. **SLIDE** Psalm 34:14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
  - i. Chase the calmness peace provides. Not called to stress and worry.
    - 1. Turn these things over to the Messiah.
      - a. “Pastor Matt – It’s overwhelming.”
        - i. I’ll leave you with the words of the one we’re chasing after in John 16:33 **SLIDE** “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”