

EXPOSITION OF JOHN

Message #58

John 14:27-31

We are living in interesting days which for many are scary. There is trouble in the employment world, there is trouble in the economic world, there is trouble in the education world, there is trouble in the oil world and there is trouble in the agricultural world. I talked with a man while on vacation, one morning, who farms 5700 acres near Champaign, Illinois. He uses John Deere tractors and he raises corn, beans and hay. He sells it all in the futures market. He said, “We need rain bad. The weather has been odd.” Then he said, “If we don’t get rain, our crops will not do well and the price of food will go way up.” It became a great opportunity for me to share with him the need to trust God. There has never been a time since Genesis, when you could find real peace, tranquility and hope in this world, it has always been in one’s relationship with God.

Back in the days when Jesus was here on earth, it was very customary to say good-bye to some one by saying “peace” or as it is said in Hebrew “shalom.” Now that Jesus was leaving, it was critical that these disciples have God’s peace because there were two main enemies mentioned in this very context that will specifically seek to rob you of it - the world (14:27), and the Devil (14:30). What we actually learn here is critical to our own survival because what Jesus teaches is this:

WHEN YOU KNOW JESUS CHRIST AND YOU KNOW THE WORD AND WILL OF GOD, YOUR HEART WILL NOT BE TROUBLED BY ANYTHING THE WORLD IS DOING OR ANYTHING SATAN IS DOING.

You can have peace and tranquility in life no matter how negative things may appear in your world by knowing the Word of God and by zeroing in on the will of God.

In the midst of what was happening to Jesus Christ, which was also being witnessed by His disciples, Jesus decided to tell His disciples He was leaving them His “peace.” Now every thing around them was beginning to look chaotic. Jesus is leaving, the disciples are still confused about doctrine and are struggling with their faith. In this context, Jesus said “I leave you with peace” and “I give you My peace.” **The kind of peace that Jesus was talking about was not the peace of the world, but the peace of the heart.** God’s peace takes trouble away from the heart and God’s peace also takes fear away from the heart.

Now there are a series of eleven statements that Jesus makes here in this context:

STATEMENT #1 – I leave peace with you. 14:27a

Jesus is just a few hours away from hanging on a cross and leaving them. Before He left, He wanted to give them a gift and the gift He chose to give them was not physical, but peaceful. Now the peace that Jesus is talking about here is not the peace that comes from having one’s sins forgiven, for they already had that peace (John 13:11). This is a peace that comes in the midst of terrible negative things that are happening all around you. This is the kind of peace that comes from God through a relationship with Jesus Christ that passes all human understanding. You cannot get this peace or find this peace anywhere else. You cannot find this kind of peace in a bottle, or in a pill, or in a person; you find it in Jesus Christ.

STATEMENT #2 – I give My peace to you. **14:27b**

One cannot help but be impressed with the calm tranquility that Christ had when He was telling them about the fact that He would be betrayed and that Judas would betray Him. One cannot help but marvel at the serenity He displayed when telling them He would die on a cross. He had a supernatural peace that was only His and now He was going to give it to His disciples.

The emphasis of this grammar is the peace that is Mine. My own personal private peace. What Jesus specifically means here is that I am the one who can give the peace of God and I am choosing to give it to those who are close to Me. Those who are in a close relationship with Jesus Christ can expect that when they go through deep trouble and dark times, Jesus Christ will specifically grant them His own private peace. This is the same kind of peace He had when going through all the terrible things He suffered. Jesus said I am giving you My own special Divine brand He'll give us when we go through negative things too.

STATEMENT #3 – The peace I give to you is not like the peace the world gives to you.
14:27c

There is a big difference between the peace Jesus gives and the peace the world gives. The peace the world gives is something you must work for, but the peace God gives is something given to you, apart from your works. The peace the world gives means one is in a right relationship with Satan and the peace Jesus gives means one is in a right relationship with God.

Dr. Warren Wiersbe made an interesting observation when he said the peace the world gives depends on resources and the peace God gives depends on relationships (*Be Transformed*, p. 37). If you have great physical resources, you'll be at peace with the world, but if you have great spiritual relationships you'll have the peace of God.

When you are going through difficulties, the world offers a peace that says let's go to a bar and drink until we forget about our problems. God says, I'll give you a peace in the midst of your problems. Most people only have peace when there is an absence of trouble, but God says you may have peace in spite of the trouble.

For people of the world peace is all about externals, but for the people of God it is all about the internal. God's peace is a wonderful thing because it gives peace of heart and mind in the midst of the heartaches, hardships and hurts.

STATEMENT #4 – Do not let your hearts be continually troubled or continually afraid .
14:27d

There is consolatory truth to this reality. By virtue of the fact that He is going to grant His peace, these disciples need not be troubled or afraid. Now the verb “troubled” is present, passive, imperative and the verb “afraid” is present, active, imperative. What this means is that the believer has been commanded (imperative mood) not to allow his heart to be continually (present tense) troubled and we have been commanded to not be continually afraid. The passive voice of the verb “troubled” means we are the recipients of the action, in that we are the recipients of the peace of God. However, the active voice of the verb “afraid” means we are the source of the action. It is God’s job to put His peace in our hearts; it is our responsibility not to be afraid.

There are three main Greek words translated fear or afraid: 1) There is the word φόβος from which we get our English phobia which may refer to a good fear of God or a bad fear. 2) There is the word εὐλαβεία that has in view a pious fear and 3) There is the word used here in this verse, δειλιάω, that refers to being a timid coward. This word is never used in any good sense (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 100).

What Jesus is saying to His disciples is I am commanding you not to be a bunch of timid cowards in this world. I don’t want trouble and trials to cause you to become a bunch of whiney, wimpy cowards. He has already told them that He is giving them His special peace so we know that one of the things that having this peace does is to keep us bold and not cowardly in the things of God no matter what we face.

STATEMENT #5 – You heard Me tell you that I am going away . **14:28a**

Again, Jesus is clearly telling them what is about to happen. Nothing would take Him by surprise and it should not take them by surprise.

STATEMENT #6 – You heard Me tell you that I will come again . **14:28b**

I take this as a reference to the fact that Jesus is referring to the fact that before He ascends into heaven, He would make a personal appearance to these disciples. He would come “to you” in a face-to-face appearance after His resurrection before going back to His father.

STATEMENT #7 – You would rejoice at this news if you loved Me. **14:28c**

Now this is a critical point about love. Jesus said if you truly loved Me, you would be rejoicing over the fact that it is time for Me to go back to My Father, because for Christ this mean His humiliation was over and it was time for his “exaltation, promotion and honor.” The point is if you loved Me in a way consistent with the Word of God, you would rejoice at this news that My humiliating time on this earth is just about over and I get to go back to My Father, who is even greater than I am. **This statement indicates at this very moment He was thinking of Himself as God.**

This verse has been used by various cults to prove Jesus is less than God. What they overlook is the grammar, the conjunction “for,” which explains the point. Jesus is saying - if you loved Me you would want Me to go back to my Glorified state. My incarnation has left me below the Father in My outward Glory and in My official position.

Now much has been given in this discourse to show Jesus is God. Jesus has the same Deity as the Father, however there is a distinction of rank among the Godhead and in the rank structure, the Father is greater than the Son.

Jesus is saying if you truly loved me, you would be rejoicing because I finally get to go back to My place of residency and My glory as the Son of God.

When we love Jesus Christ in a right way, we will rejoice at the fact that He doesn't have to spend His time hanging around in this lousy, sin-filled world. He already spent some years here and then got out of here and went back to His heavenly home.

There is a natural sorrow that we all have when we see someone we love die. But when you think about it from the person's perspective if a believer is in Jesus Christ, he/she gets to go to heaven. Sometimes the greatest demonstration of love is to rejoice over the fact that our loved one no longer struggles or has to endure the humiliation and the pain of this world, but finally gets to go home. That is when we truly do have the peace of God.

STATEMENT #8 – I have told you what will happen before it happens so you may believe.
14:29

One of the great faith-building devices is literal fulfilled prophecy. It calms and comforts. When you know precisely what is happening and why it is happening because God's Word has told you, you do have peace and you are not afraid.

STATEMENT #9 – I will not speak much more with you because Satan is coming and he has nothing in me. **14:30**

There are eight subjects named in Scripture who are responsible for Christ's death:

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| 1) Herod - Acts 4:27a | 4) Israel - 4:27d | 7) God the Son - Galatians 2:20 |
| 2) Pilate - Acts 4:27b | 5) Satan - John 14:30 | 8) God the Spirit - Hebrews 9:14 |
| 3) Gentiles - Acts 4:27c | 6) God the Father - Isaiah 53:10 | |

Jesus did not have much time left. Satan was now moving all of his forces against Jesus Christ but those forces had no hold on Jesus Christ. The Greek is very emphatic here; Satan has nothing on or in Jesus Christ. There was no charge Satan could bring against Jesus Christ; there are plenty he could bring against us (Revelation 12:10-11). He has nothing to do with what is going on. Jesus wanted His disciples to realize that this was all about the will of God. It was God the Father who was in control, not Satan. Satan would raise up people to kill Jesus Christ, but this was all about the will of God. There were mysterious things taking place between Jesus and Satan.

STATEMENT #10 – I am going to obey God and carry out His word and will so the world will know that I love God the Father and am carrying out His plan. **14:31a**

This was not about Satan getting the upper hand or getting victory. This was about the program and plan of God. Jesus Christ was carrying out God's plan. Philippians 2:8 says He was obedient even unto death. This was about carrying out the will of God.

STATEMENT #11 – Let's get up and leave. **14:31b**

Since we know that Jesus does not get to the Garden of Gethsemane until John 18:1, either the rest of this discourse occurred as a final wrap-up, which included His prayer in chapter 17, or He gave this as a postscript to the Upper Room Discourse as they were moving to Gethsemane. Many Bible scholars have observed that there was a vineyard area in the Kidron Valley at the base of the Mount of Olives and believe that is where Jesus finished His teaching. In view of the fact that in chapter 15 He begins with a vine and the branches imagery, it is very possible that this is true.

But the thing I want us to observe here is that when we are in a right relationship with God, we don't need to be a bunch of troubled cowards just because the world seems to be falling apart. No matter what the threat or intimidation, you stay close to Jesus Christ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall fill your mind and your heart.