

This Week's Message: **Prince of Peace**

Summary

Are you ready for some good news?! We all want peace. But if we are being honest, it seems unachievable, elusive. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He takes away the worry that seeks to steal your joy. God has always been gathering His people to go and bless the world, bringing His peace. John 14:25-31 gives us one of the richest promises of that peace. Remarkably, as Jesus was just hours from His betrayal, He was still others-focused. He was thinking of the peace, joy and faith of His disciples. His vision was to start by providing this joy, peace and faith for His disciples so that it would spread to the whole world. Through Jesus we can see poverty put right, racism replaced with unity, hate swallowed up by love. But this does not come without a fight.

Jesus died and rose again so that we could have peace as a gift. He fought the fight on our behalf. This means that His victory is what wins the day in the battle we fight with Satan and spiritual darkness. As we conclude our Peacemakers series we are uniquely focused on this reality – Satan was not the reason Jesus died. Obedience was. His obedience is now our record of right standing with God. This means that He has earned peace on our behalf and given it to us as a free gift. Because it is a gift, Satan has no right to take it from us. We enjoy it now by faith and we look forward to the day when the whole world will be renewed with His peace when He returns. And that's the gospel!

Getting to Know Each Other

1. When have you been in a situation where you were tempted to be overwhelmed with anxiety and fear (e.g. stuck in an elevator)? Was there something or someone that made the difference for you?

Read John 14:25-31

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ 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. 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. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

Getting Into the Bible

1. One of the remarkable things about Jesus is how focused on others He was in His last days and hours. Take a minute to look through John 14:25-31. Where can you see His selfless attitude on display? What impresses you with Jesus here? How can you see His one of a kind lifestyle in this text?
2. Satan was not the reason Jesus died. Obedience led Jesus to the cross. That's the foundation for peace, joy and faith in our lives. Look back at John 14:25-31. What can we expect Jesus to do for us when it comes to each of those realities – faith, joy and peace? How can we grow in experiencing each of them?

Application

1. If we take an honest look at the Scriptures we know that two things are true – 1) Jesus has won the ultimate victory on our behalf. 2) We are still in a spiritual battle. Are there places where you are experiencing this warfare and spiritual opposition? How can your group be praying for you, helping you take hold of the peace God has given?
2. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. His peace is a free gift rooted in His death and resurrection. We enjoy that peace in our relationship with Him through His Word and Spirit.
 - a. Where are places in your life that you need more of His peace? What's in the way?
 - b. How are you called to extend His peace to a world full of worry? What's your next step?