

The Gospel of John: that you might believe...and LIVE

Jesus is the Provider of Peace

John 14:25-31

Intro: In the last 3,550 years, the world has seen less than 300 years of global peace. In the last 6,000 years, we have seen over 8,000 broken peace treaties and more than 14,000 wars fought with a combined total of about 4 billion lives lost. Throughout history there have always been illusions of global peace, but this world is utterly helpless in bringing it to pass.

“Peace is far more than protection from annihilation. Peace is more than the cessation of hostilities. Peace is more than a state of mind or the tranquility of a countryside. Peace is commitment to a way of life which precludes war, poverty, slavery, prejudice, and fear. Peace is action. Peace is the fruit of love.” **St. Augustine of Hippo**

“The concept of peace is much broader than just the realm of international social harmony. People want peace in their personal lives, relief from the relentless pressures and problems that each day brings.” **John MacArthur**

Note: Think about the ways we use the term, “*peace*,” Mom begging for some *peace* and quiet, the psychologist tells you to make *peace* with your past, we ask our local police to keep the *peace*, when we bury someone the typical eulogy includes a desire for the deceased to rest in *peace*.

But, as badly as we want true, comprehensive and lasting peace...most have been frustrated in their search and seem further from it.

Illus: There was a guy who got a job working on rural roads, painting the lines on them. Because it was a very rural job and equipment was not readily available, he had to paint the yellow lines by hand. After 3 days, the foreman called the new hire into his office and said, *“The first day you did great. You painted 3 miles of yellow lines. The second day wasn’t bad, you painted 2 miles but today, you only painted 1 mile so it looks like I have to fire you.”* On his way out of the office the dejected employee turned and said, *“It wasn’t my fault. Every day I got farther from the paint can.”* For many, this is how it goes with peace; every day it seems to get farther and farther away. But, today, **Jesus is going to tell you how you can take peace with you!**

Text & Prop: Three ways Jesus provides Peace in John 14:25-31

I. Jesus Provides Peace through a Person – 25-26

Note: The Hebrew word for peace is *Shalom* and it is so much more than an absence of war or distress. *Shalom* means wholeness, completeness, health, security, even prosperity in the best sense. But, *Shalom* is a drastically different kind of peace than the world offers.

“The world bases its peace on its resources, while God’s peace depends on relationships. To be right with God means to enjoy the peace of

God...Christians enjoy peace in spite of trials because of the presence of power, the Holy Spirit.” **Warren Wiersbe**

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.” **Isaiah 26:3**

“I looked at Christ, and the dove of peace flew into my heart; I looked at the dove of peace, and it flew away.” **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

“If we choose to fix our minds upon God, perfect peace will be ours and we cannot lose it while we are stayed on God.” **Donald Grey Barnhouse**

Take a Step Back: There is a question of why we can be so confident of the presence of a person through whom Jesus brings peace. We can be confident because we have a reliable witness to the things Jesus said & did.

Common Criticism: The textual evidence won’t allow anybody with half a brain to claim that the gospels were not written during the lifetime of the Apostles, but some will claim that we can’t take them seriously because they were writing 30-60 years after the events (John was 90).

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit...He will teach you all things, and bring to remembrance all things I have said to you.” **John 14:26**

Note: One of the things you notice as you read the Gospels is the constant failures and mistakes of the disciples concerning the identity of Jesus. So, one of the principle tasks of the Holy Spirit is to explain to the disciples what Jesus said, who Jesus was/is and what they must do now. The Holy Spirit illuminated their following, serving and sharing Jesus!

“Religion is what happens when the Spirit has left the building.” **Bono**

Transition: Dear friends, peace is not found in the absence of pain but in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Jesus provides Peace through a Person!

II. Jesus Provides Peace with Assurances – 27-28

Note: In John 14, Jesus is bidding the disciples a word of farewell but at the same time, this word of farewell is a word of greeting to the Holy Spirit. This is why His peace is so different from that of the world.

Pax Romana: This refers to the roughly 150 relatively peaceful years in the Roman Empire in the 1st & 2nd centuries. However, this peace was won and maintained by a brutal sword. For this reason, most Jews thought that their Messiah would bring peace in the same way the Romans brought “peace.”

“Peace was secured by an innocent man, who suffered and died at the hands of the Romans, of the Jews, and of all of us. And by his death he effected for his own followers peace with God, and therefore ‘the peace of God which transcends all understanding.’” **D.A. Carson**

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” **Romans 5:1**

“and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 4:7**

The world cannot offer you peace: The world can offer an experience of momentary, fleeting tranquility through self-indulgence, materialism, love, romance, substance abuse, false religion or a host of other placebos. The Bible explains that the world’s peace is inadequate:

“There is no peace,’ says the LORD, ‘for the wicked.” **Isaiah 48:22**

False Prophets: In Jeremiah, God fiercely rebuked the false prophets who *“healed the brokenness of My people superficially, saying ‘Peace, peace,’ but there is no peace.”* **Jeremiah 6:14 (NASB)**

“The world’s peace is only an illusion. A peace based on temporarily positive circumstances or ignorant escapism is not genuine peace at all...only those who know Jesus Christ can have peace with God and, subsequently, experience true peace in this life.” **John MacArthur**

Jesus provides Peace through a Person and Peace with Assurances...

III. Jesus Provides Peace in Preparation 29-31

Illus: Ramsey MacDonald (British PM) was talking to his expert on foreign affairs about lasting peace. The man became offended by the PM’s idealistic viewpoint & said, *“The desire for peace does not necessarily ensure it.”* To which the PM said, *“Quite true. But neither does the desire for food satisfy your hunger, but at least it gets you started toward a restaurant.”* **Prepare!**

Note: Jesus was preparing them for the season of life where things around them would not be peaceful, but they would have peace anyway.

Enemy: Satan is the ruler of the evil, worldly system in rebellion against God. Jesus had been in conflict with Satan throughout His life. As an infant it was Satan who moved Herod to try to kill Him (Matt 2:16). During Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness, it was Satan who came to tempt Him (Mark 1) there as well as throughout His early ministry (Heb 4). Satan made multiple attempts on the life of Jesus by stirring up evil men. He’s coming for you!

“In a few short hours, Jesus’ lifelong conflict with the Devil would reach its triumphant climax. Satan would finally succeed in having Him killed, but in so doing would bring about his own destruction.” **John MacArthur**

Jesus was not a victim.: *“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”* **1 John 3:8**

“That through death He (Jesus) might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.” **Hebrews 2:14**

Furthermore, Jesus was doing all that He did in obedience to the Father’s command. The world would someday come to acknowledge Jesus as Lord:

- **Some will Acknowledge Jesus by Choice**

“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” **Romans 10:9**

- **All Others will Acknowledge Jesus Compulsion:**

“Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of 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**

Share the Gospel

Concl: The Spafford family of Chicago, Illinois (Horatio, Anna & their 4 daughters) lived through the great fire of 1871. Two years later, they decided to take a vacation to Europe but, at the very last minute, Horatio was detained on business but Anna and his 4 daughters (11, 9, 5 & 2) boarded the S.S. *Ville de Havre* bound for England. However, during their journey across the Atlantic Ocean, the ship was struck by an iron sailing vessel and 226 passengers lost their lives. Anna was found unconscious floating on debris but all four of her daughters drowned. When Anna finally reached Whales 9 days after the shipwreck, she sent a Transatlantic cable message back to Horatio which read, *“Saved Alone.”* After receiving Anna’s telegram, Horatio immediately left Chicago to go bring his wife home. During the Atlantic crossing, the captain sent word to Horatio that they were passing over the exact spot where the S.S. *Ville de Havre* now sat nearly a mile beneath the water’s surface on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean. It was at this exact spot where Horatio penned the words **Show Picture** that would become one of the most recognizable songs of all time. **Sing “It is Well”**

“On Thursday last we passed over the spot where she went down, in mid-ocean, the waters three miles deep. But I do not think of our dear ones there. They are safe, folded, the dear lambs.” **Horatio Spafford’s note to Family**

Horatio Spafford illustrates the principle that Peace is not the Absence of Pain, Pressure or Problems...Peace is the Presence of a Person! With the Holy Spirit, you have peace anytime, anywhere!

Jesus is the Provider of Peace **Reading List**

Monday: John 16:33

Tuesday: Romans 8:6

Wednesday: Psalms 46:1

Thursday: Isaiah 41:1

Friday: Galatians 5:22-26

Saturday: 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Sunday: Psalm 18:32-36