



THE PEACE PROMISE: #3: PRAYER AS PEACE

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BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

"Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."
(1 Peter 4:1-11)

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

*Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."
(John 21:15-17)*

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Imagine a mattress with a glass of red wine and a bowling ball that falls right next to it onto the mattress (like in the commercials). It is unshaken and unmoved. It does not fall. Jesus tells us that in this world we will have trouble. But we can have peace in the middle of the suffering. God has designed prayer to help us to be not disturbed in the midst of suffering. We can be like the glass of red wine. When bowling balls fall all around us, we are unshaken because we trust in Jesus. In John 21, Jesus basically gives Peter an ordination service. However, the only question asked is "do you love me?" But Jesus asks twice "do you love me?" with "agape" as the Greek word for love. Peter responds with "you know I love (phileo)

you." Then the third time (previous two times Jesus used "agape" for love), Jesus says "Peter, do you love (phileo) me?" The lesson here is this: We can only love God with our imperfect human love (Phileo), even though God loves us perfectly and unconditionally (agape). Jesus then tells Peter that when he is an old man, he will be led where he does not want to go. A little while later, Peter is in prison for preaching the gospel. He is supposed to be killed the next day. But he's asleep in the prison! How? Because he trusts in the words of Jesus. If we are struggling with sleep because of lack of peace, we ought to repeat these words of Jesus "I will never leave you, nor forsake you." In the middle of the storm, we can (like Peter in prison) sleep in peace because we trust in Jesus. To follow Jesus is to fall into His arms, even in the middle of pain.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Describe the most peaceful moment, or season, of your life.
2. What was it about the most peaceful moment of your life that made it peaceful?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. How are we supposed to live our lives according to 1 Peter 4:2?
2. What are some examples of temptations in our world to live for our own pleasures, rather than for the will of God?
3. What can we expect our experience to be when we resist doing what is wrong (look down at 1 Peter 4:2-4)? What do you think is the reason for this?
4. How can we experience the peace of God in the middle of the pain and struggles of life?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What do friends of yours who don't follow Jesus go to when they are in the middle of pain and suffering?
2. What could it say to those who don't know Jesus to see Jesus followers in the midst of suffering living with peace?
3. Who are some examples of people who had such a deep trust in Jesus that they were able to have peace in the middle of suffering?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What about your life is keeping you from living with peace?
2. What can you do today to live with peace in the middle of the storm?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What is a healthy habit you ought to implement into your life

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
CONT.**

in order to experience more of the peace of God?
(i.e. not looking at your phone one hour before bed, turning off Netflix
a couple of nights a week, spending time each morning in prayer, etc.)