



## THE PEACE PROMISE: #4: FROM PANIC TO PEACE

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### BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

*"Sometimes  
we get busy  
pursuing power  
when we should  
be pursuing peace."*

–Pastor  
Efreem Smith

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."*

*Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"*

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."*

*Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."*

*Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."*

*"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever– the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."*

*Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"*

*Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."*

*"All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

*"You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told*

*you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.*

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

***"Come now; let us leave." (John 14:1-31)***

We exist in a broken and divided world where we can't talk about the major social issues of today without there being anxiety around the rules of engagement. When put everything in our own hands, and we run out of options, anxiety sets in. We must rely on someone whose wisdom is far beyond ours, to learn to be peacemakers and peace-bringers. Many of Jesus' disciples believed that Jesus was going to lead a weaponized army to defeat the Roman Empire. Instead, Jesus uses language of wedding preparation to paint a picture. The groom must prepare a place for he and his future bride to live, and while he is away, each day the bridesmaids help the bride to be ready for the return of the bridegroom. Jesus' disciples wouldn't have expected him to say, "I am going to prepare a place for you." When we discover a brand new future, we understand eternity in and through the Son of God. We bring peace into a panic-filled world by being Kingdom citizens now. We can't just wait for Heaven, we are called to connect to eternity now and to be people of peace.

When we develop a brand new faith, we have freedom in the midst of anxiety by believing that Jesus is the savior, the One who provides access to eternal life. Faith is recognizing that there is something beyond you. With God there are larger possibilities, there are things we can access because of who we are connected to. The enemy wants to use anxiety and panic to make us believe that we are alone, isolated, and abandoned. Jesus was isolated on the cross, separated from the Father so that through his death and resurrection, we are never alone. The Creator of the universe wants company with you. When we depend on a brand new friend, we have God's dynamic presence within us. God wants to be so involved in your life that panic might stop by, but it never spends the night.

## 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. What stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?
2. What was your high/low from the past week (or since the group last met)?
3. What are you most looking forward to this week? Most dreading?

### 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. What does Jesus tell his disciples he is going to do?
2. How does Jesus say his disciples are to know the Father?
3. Who will the Father give to His disciples?
4. Who does Jesus say he and the Father will make their home with?
5. What does Jesus say is evidence of a disciple's belief in him (verse 12)?

### LOOK OUT

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

***Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max***

1. Jesus' disciples expected that he would lead them to a military victory.  
Recall a time when you expected God's answer to prayer would look different from what He had in mind.

**DISCUSSION  
QUESTIONS,  
CONT.**

2. How might we attend to the bride while we wait for the groom (Christ)?
3. How is the church sustained while waiting for the return of the bridegroom(Christ)?
4. In verse 27 Jesus says that the peace he gives is not like that which the world gives. How do you suppose the peace of Jesus is different from what the world offers?
5. What does it mean for God to come and make a home with followers of Jesus?

**LOOK IN**

*These are questions that help you consider personal application.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. How might your decisions and actions look differently if you were to pursue power less, and pursue peace more?
2. How could you practice praising Jesus in the midst of hardship?
3. Has there been a time when the Holy Spirit has reminded you of Jesus' teaching?
4. When Jesus says that he will do anything his disciples ask in his name, do you think he actually means "anything?" Why or why not?
5. How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus prepares a place for people who believe in and love him?

**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. How will you more intimately involve God in your life, so that He is included in all your decisions?
2. Are there any areas in which you feel convicted to seek peace in Jesus?