

“Jesus Is Peace”

John 16:33

Sermon Series: “Jesus In The Storm”

Introduction: Psychologist Gary Collins has called anxiety “the official emotion of our age.” He actually wrote that in the early 2000’s and anxiety has gone through the roof since then. Statistics show that about 18% of the population is diagnosed with an anxiety disorder annually. However, anxiety has gone through the roof again since that statistic was compiled because of the current crisis we are facing.

How can we find peace in this current storm? Even when it passes, how can we live in peace during normal life and especially in our personal storms? In John 14-16, Jesus was preparing His disciples for His death, departure, and the difficulties they would face. He closes and summarizes His teaching by saying “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

1. Problems are predicted. We need to be realistic regarding our expectations of life. Duane Sloan texted this to me while I was preaching about peace in 2018. He said, “Outside pressure of adversity is inevitable. Stress is optional.” I think he was saying that we can’t control a lot of what happens to us, but we can control how we respond. So, in a sense, we have to fight for peace. Here are biblical reasons that we have problems and go through trials. Some apply to everybody and some to only Christians.

- A. We experience trials simply because we live in a fallen world.**
- B. We experience trials because we reap what we sow.**
- C. We experience trials of refining that God is using to grow us spiritually.**
- D. We experience trials because our Father is disciplining us.**
- E. We experience trials because of suffering for Jesus.**
- F. We experience trials because of other’s sin.**
- G. We experience trials because of Satan attacking us.**

2. Peace is promised. As a result, we can be hopeful even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

3. Peace is in the person of Jesus. It is Jesus Himself who truly gives peace so stop looking in the wrong places. The world is full of problems but Jesus overcame the world through His death and resurrection. He conquered sin, death, hell, the grave, Satan, the flesh, and this world’s system. Therefore, there is victory and peace in Him.

Here are some of the wrong places we look for peace: Relationships, money, sex, porn, drugs, alcohol, nature, material stuff/shopping, sports, hobbies, entertainment, social media, food, position, prestige

These are the types of peace Jesus can give us and how we can experience them:

A. We can be at peace with God (Romans 5:1, Colossians 1:19, Ephesians 2:13-16). Due to our sin, we are rebels who are at enmity with God. We are separated from Him and spiritually dead apart from the cross of Christ. Robert Mounce writes, “It [peace] speaks of the new relationship that exists between God and those who turn to him in faith. As Paul used the term, it does not primarily depict a state of inner tranquility. It is external and objective. To have ‘peace with God’ means to be in a relationship with God in which all the hostility caused by sin has been removed. It is to exist no longer under the wrath of God.”

B. We can live with the peace of God. According to Jesus’s promise in John 16:33, peace is the possession of every child of God. However, is it our actual daily experience? Here are some steps to take to live in the peace that we possess.

-Pray biblically (Philippians 4:6-7)

-Think carefully (Philippians 4:8)

Craig Groeschel: “Our lives are moving in the direction of our strongest thoughts.”

Lori Arwood: “even if” instead of “what if” thinking

-Live obediently (Philippians 4:9)

-Walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25)