

John 14:27 – “Jesus Promises Peace”

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Intro: The old Puritan commentator, Matthew Henry tells us that “*When Christ left the world, he made his will. His soul he bequeathed to his Father, and his body to Joseph [of Arimathea]. His clothes fell to the soldiers. His mother he left to the care of [the Apostle] John. But what should he leave to his poor disciples, who had left all for him? Silver and gold he had none; but he left them what was far better, [He left them] his peace.*”¹ Today, we’ll think together about what that means, and I suppose that you will agree with me that there is very little men in our generation would agree upon, beyond the indisputable fact that we are living in a generation that desperately needs peace. Everywhere we look today we seem to find confusion, chaos, conflict, and sometimes outright warfare. The circumstances of our world seem endlessly restless, never at peace. Beyond our circumstances, the hearts of men seem estranged from peace as well. “Where can I find peace for my troubled heart,” ask millions. “How can I escape the uncertainty, uneasiness and fear that seems my constant companion, day and night?” The world is looking for peace today, but not finding it, because the world is looking in the wrong place. Into this confusing turmoil, Jesus speaks a word: “**John 14:27 - 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.* The secret of peace is right in front of us, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Why is peace so hard to find? What kinds of peace do we need? How does Jesus leave us peace and give us peace? How does His peace differ from the world’s? Let’s search for answers today in one single verse: John 14:27, where we’ll learn that...

Proposition: Jesus gives a peace like no other to all who put their faith in Him.

Our study will center on three thoughts: 1) Jesus Promises Peace; 2) Jesus Delivers Peace; 3) Jesus Commands Peace.

Let’s begin by setting the context for the verse before us. Jesus was speaking to His disciples on the night He was betrayed. Within a few hours He would be condemned by both the religious and political leadership of the nation, sentenced to death, beaten, and crucified. This was the work He had come to do, and Jesus realized that His time with His faithful little band of disciples was drawing to a close. There were things that He wanted to emphasize to them, things they would need to know after He had gone back into heaven to resume His place at the Father’s right hand. One of the things He earnestly desired to draw their attention to was the matter of peace. He would leave them behind in a turbulent world that would not welcome their coming in His name. Conflict would be the norm for His followers from the day He ascended till the day of His return. They would long for peace. Where could they find peace? He promised them, that they would find peace in Him.

Jesus Promises Peace – He said to them: *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.*² It’s an interesting way He phrased it, isn’t it? He gives the promise twice; says it two different ways. He said, “I leave peace with you.” And then again, “I give my peace to you.” It almost sounds like He said the same thing twice, but in fact two different kinds of peace are being spoken of: peace of *circumstance* and peace of *heart*. When Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you,” He was addressing the most common kind of peace men think about when considering the world around them: peace of circumstance. The world is topsy-turvy. Sin has ruined men so that we can no longer relate to others without moments of conflict, sometime boiling over into open

¹ Henry, Matthew

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 14:27). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

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warfare. It isn't just world powers that struggle with this; it's individuals – husbands and wives; children and parents; bosses and employees. You name it! Any kind of relationship can be disrupted by the inner power of sin in the human heart at any moment. When Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you,” He was giving His disciples a promise. He was saying to them, “What I'm going to accomplish for you on the cross tomorrow, will settle the issue of conflict in your relationships forever.” You see, the basic conflict of relationship troubling men everywhere today, is man's conflict with his maker – our estrangement from God. Because we are at war with God, we are at war with everyone else, even our own hearts. Why is there so much conflict on planet earth? Why is peace so hard to find? Can we not grasp that peace is always better than war? The answer to our circumstances, the key to our ruptured relationships is sin – our estrangement from God. On the cross, Jesus settled that issue forever for all who put their faith in Him. His atoning death settled the conflict between God and man, making peace with God for all who put their faith in Him. Jesus said, I'm leaving you that peace: the peace of sins forgiven; the peace of reconciliation with your heavenly Father.

But, there is another kind of peace we need. Not a peace in our circumstances, not a peace in our relationships. Something much deeper. We need peace in our hearts. We need peace in our consciences. We need peace with our own inner man. Jesus said, “I'm giving that to you too.” He said, “*My peace I give you.*” Harry Ironside put it this way, “I am going to give you a peace which will keep you from heart trouble.”³ A peace that will keep you from accusing yourself; the kind of peace that I have. “The peace he spoke of is the calmness of confidence in God. Jesus had this peace because he was sure of the Father's love and approval.”⁴ Jesus was in no doubt about His Father's love for Him. He knew beyond question that He was accepted and approved by God. From that certainty, Jesus experienced peace of heart in its deepest sense. That doesn't mean that Jesus never experienced conflict in His circumstances; nor does it imply that His soul was never troubled. We'll say more on this later in the message, but for them moment, let's realize that the kind of peace Jesus was speaking of was, *Shalom*. You've no doubt heard the word before – it's the Hebrew word for peace, and it carries a much deeper meaning than our English word, “peace.” Warren Wiersbe helps us understand:

Shalom—peace—is a precious word to the Jewish people. It means much more than just the absence of war or distress. *Shalom* means wholeness, completeness, health, security, even prosperity in the best sense. When you are enjoying God's peace, there is joy and contentment.⁵

The kind of peace that Jesus was promising was the peace of restoration; a complete healing of sin and its damaging consequences in the hearts of those who love Him. Notice that this peace was future tense: “I will give you” this peace. This peace could not be received by the disciples until Jesus had finished His work on Calvary. First sin had to be dealt with, then the Holy Spirit could be given. Jesus had just promised the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence to all who put their faith in Him in the verses preceding verse 27. So, what was

³ Ironside, Harry.

⁴ Tenney, M. C. (1981). [John](#). In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: John and Acts* (Vol. 9, p. 148). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

⁵ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 1, p. 354). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

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Jesus saying? He was saying, “You have my word on it. My death will bring you peace with God; My Spirit will give you peace of heart.”

Jesus Delivers Peace – Notice what Jesus calls our attention to next in our text: the kind of peace He gives cannot be given by the world. *Not as the world gives do I give to you.*⁶ Jesus promised that He would not give peace as the world promises to give peace to those caught in its web. How does the world give peace? By promising peace through things which can never bring peace. The world promises us peace through *possessions*. Accumulate wealth; collect a lot of stuff; insulate yourself against the blows of life and you’ll have peace, says the world. The world promises peace through *pleasures*. Falling in love will settle all your issues; taking another vacation will satisfy your emptiness. Really good coffee, or food, or entertainment – whatever - will set your heart at rest, says the world. The world promises us peace through *powers*. Get control of your circumstances and you’ll find peace. Get that guy out of his position, and your job will be great. Make sure your way gets adopted, even though your wife really doesn’t want to go along with your plan. These are the ways the world promises us peace: possessions, pleasures, powers. But the world can’t deliver. Possessions can never satisfy the troubled heart because they are perishable by nature and can’t carry you into eternity. Pleasures are the most ephemeral of all things. The fun you experienced at Disney is over as soon as you step off the rollercoaster. Powers can’t deliver either. In power struggles, someone always loses, provoking further conflict in the future. The world – the kingdom of Man in rebellion against God – can never deliver peace. It only issues empty promises.

But Jesus delivers. With the coming of the Holy Spirit we receive someone more valuable than gold; a joy that will never end; a strength that mounts up with wings like eagles. All this from the indwelling Spirit of Truth. Jesus delivers. Armed with His promise, equipped with His Spirit, we have peace that endures. Peace for our circumstances and peace in our hearts. In Christ we receive not only peace *with* God; we also receive the peace *of* God.

Jesus Commands Peace – Finally, Jesus confronted His disciples with the fact that the peace He promised to give us would not come to us automatically. He commands us to do something to experience this peace. *Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*⁷ Why did He give us this command? Let’s think for a moment about real life on planet earth. Though we have received Christ as our Savior, we still experience troubling circumstances, like everyone don’t we? And even though we’ve put our faith in Him and are on our way to heaven, our hearts still give us trouble from time to time, do they not? “How am I going to get that bill paid? What in the world is going on with my kids? I’m terrified in the face of the news the Doctor just delivered.” What about these things? We still experience conflict; we still know moments of terror don’t we? It will help us to realize that Jesus also experienced these things, even though He was *Shalom* in all its fullness. Think about it. Even as Jesus was promising His peace to His disciples, Judas was arranging with the High Priests His execution. His circumstances were not at peace. A few hours later, Jesus would be on His face in the Garden of Gethsemane, pleading with His Father for another way finish His mission. He obviously was experiencing a troubled spirit. We are not exempt from these kinds of things, just as He was not exempt from them. This is why Jesus commands us to rule over our hearts, insisting on peace. The heart of man is

⁶ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 14:27). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

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deceitful and desperately wicked, says our Bible. It will continue to make its demands regardless of our commitment to Jesus. It is the outright ally of the world and the devil. Even the pure heart of Jesus was not exempt from the temptations of the devil, though He never fell into sin. So Jesus commands us to insist that our heads take charge. The truth of Scripture must be brought to bear on the trembling heart of the disciple in moments of fear, uncertainty and doubt. The Holy Spirit stands ready to play a new tune on the harp of our heart when we commit ourselves to live by faith rather than by feeling. Emotions cannot be commanded, but faith can be. By faith we can count on what God says to be true, rather than on what our fallen hearts are telling us is true. The key to the heart is the mind. This is why the Scripture tells us in **Isaiah 26:3 - 3** *You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.* And again, we are spoken to about this in **Romans 12:2 - 2** *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* There is a proper kind of “replacement theology” – It is the replacing of our fears by our faith.

[DOCTRINAL POINT] Jesus Promises Peace; Jesus Delivers Peace; Jesus Commands Peace.

Now, what are we to do with all of this?

[ILLUSTRATION] James Boice gives us an illustration:

The story has occasionally been told of a contest in which artists were to submit paintings and sculptures portraying their understanding of peace. Some showed beautiful sunsets, others pastoral scenery. But the prize went to an artist who had painted a bird in its nest, attached to a branch protruding from the edge of a thundering waterfall. This is the idea involved in Christ’s legacy. In times of outward peace anyone can be at peace, or at least many can. But it takes an exceptional peace, a supernatural peace, to prevail in the midst of great outward trouble and inner distress. Christ’s peace is just that, exceptional and supernatural.... it is a peace that is to be present in his own in spite of the vacillating nature of the world around them, his own absence, and the vigorous activity of the devil and evil persons.⁸

[APPLICATION] An old commentator pointed out that half of our doubts and fears arise from a dim perception of the real nature of Christ’s gifts to us.⁹ On the Cross, Jesus canceled our sin debt and reconciled us to God. With the coming of the Holy Spirit Jesus gave us His indwelling presence, who, along with His word makes it possible for us to rule over our unruly hearts. You and I, like Jesus, can rest secure in our heavenly Father’s love and approval. We have all that we need to experience *Shalom* in the gifts Jesus has won for us on Calvary. Lean into His promise; let the word of Christ dwell richly in you. Rest in the love and acceptance God has gifted to you through His Son. When we know Jesus, then we know peace.

Conclusion: Let’s pray.

⁸ Boice, James M.

⁹ Ryle, J. C.