

John 14: Jesus' "Father" Theology

Jesus' Great Parting Gift: The Problem with Peace

John 14.27-31

The Problem with Peace

“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.”

The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks along them will know peace.

ISAIAH 59.8

- ❖ The very first impact of sin was the loss of peace; Adam and Eve lost their assurance and peace of heart, became perpetrators of blame, and were thrust into a hostile world.
- ❖ As a result of their sin, their hearts were troubled at the realization of their nakedness and thus, they tried to compensate for their feelings of inadequacy; when they heard the Lord God approaching, they were afraid and hid themselves from the threat they were sensing (i.e. exposure, inadequacy, shame).

“ ‘Because they lead my people astray, saying, “Peace,” when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash.’ “

EZEKIEL 13.10

“The word of the LORD you have spoken is good,” Hezekiah replied. For he thought, “There will be peace and security in my lifetime.”

ISAIAH 39.8

- ❖ The problem with the world’s peace is that its efforts to acquire peace always fall short because they do not address the root cause, i.e., sin, and because it is not based on the reconciling, transforming work of the Prince of Peace.
- ❖ The same “anti-peace” dynamic is at work in believers—our sin-affected human nature is in conflict with our spiritual nature causing war within us¹ leading us to act in ways that are the antithesis of what we have experienced in Christ.

¹ Romans 7.22-24

Our Troubled Hearts

“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.”

My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught . . . my heart is in anguish within me . . . fear and trembling have beset me . . .

PSALM 55

❖ *“Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

*“trouble” (tarasso) – to agitate with fear: terrify, put in consternation
to agitate with grief or anxiety
to agitate with doubt or uncertainty*

*“afraid” (deiliao) – to be timid, be in fear
from delis, deos: (dread); timid, i.e. faithless*

- ❖ Like Adam, we try to find an answer to our nakedness—our sense of vulnerability, that which causes us fear. The first lesson that the Lord God taught fallen humanity is that only He can adequately address our loss of peace.
- ❖ Our attempts at peace are—
 - ▶ temporary, unsustainable
 - ▶ partial, in regard to a particular thing
 - ▶ unsecured / unguaranteed
 - ▶ changeable, dependent on certain factors
 - ▶ shallow, easily affected or diminished
- ❖ The bottom line is that we endeavor to experience peace on a human level when the issues affecting it are spiritual, not human. At the heart of any loss of peace is faithlessness and the only answer for faithless is a work of faith.