

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Dave – Sunday 3rd December 2023

PEACE

Luke 8:22-39

Peace at Christmas

- We sing songs that speak of peace.
- We speak phrases that talk of peace on earth.
- We look at the world around us and we wonder about that peace.
- We focus in on peace and the peace of God.

People around us, many would look around and say that there is no peace on earth today.

Turmoil in the world – conflict and heart ache – chaos maybe even in our own lives.

Charles Appleton Longfellow (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's son) – *Story - See attached document.*

Henry Longfellow – also looked around and saw world Chaos – injustice – seeing this in his own family

We are to go back to the scriptures and see the God of peace.

Luke 8:22-39 Christian Standard Bible

Wind and Waves Obey Jesus

²² One day he and his disciples got into a boat, and he told them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." So they set out, ²³ and as they were sailing he fell asleep. Then a

fierce windstorm came down on the lake; they were being swamped and were in danger. ²⁴ They came and woke him up, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to die!"

Then he got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves. So they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ He said to them, "Where is your faith?"

They were fearful and amazed, asking one another, "Who then is this? He commands even the winds and the waves, and they obey him!"

Demons Driven Out by Jesus

²⁶ Then they sailed to the region of the Gerasenes,^[a] which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ When he got out on land, a demon-possessed man from the town met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes and did not stay in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before him, and said in a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torment me!" ²⁹ For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was guarded, bound by chains and shackles, he would snap the restraints and be driven by the demon into deserted places.

³⁰ "What is your name?" Jesus asked him.

"Legion," he said, because many demons had entered him. ³¹ And they begged him not to banish them to the abyss.

³² A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. The demons begged him to permit them to enter the pigs, and he gave them permission. ³³ The demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

³⁴ When the men who tended them saw what had happened, they ran off and reported it in the town and in the countryside. ³⁵ Then people went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man the demons had departed from, sitting at Jesus's feet, dressed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ Meanwhile,

the eyewitnesses reported to them how the demon-possessed man was delivered. ³⁷ Then all the people of the Gerasene region^[b] asked him to leave them, because they were gripped by great fear. So getting into the boat, he returned.

³⁸ The man from whom the demons had departed begged him earnestly to be with him. But he sent him away and said, ³⁹ "Go back to your home, and tell all that God has done for you." And off he went, proclaiming throughout the town how much Jesus had done for him.

The Power of Jesus

The Presence of Jesus

The Peace of Jesus

Luke 8 – we see two miraculous works of Jesus – one after the other.

In the Dramatic Monologue prior to the message, we saw...

- A God who calms storms.
- Jesus calmed the storms – Luke 8 – Mark 4 and Matthew 8

Verse 26 onward - A tormented man.

In Jesus day it was not uncommon for demonic forces to show themselves.

Demonic forces are at play in the world that we live in.

Sin showing itself in human health, lifestyle and in the earth.

- Second demon possessed man also with the first man.
- Who's lives are torn apart due to unclean spirits tormenting them.
- Controlled by Satan and his minions.

Verse 28

Look at some of the words and phrases that Luke uses in these passages.

- The gravity of what is being said.
- Demonic forces – fallen angels.
- Thwarting in the word of God in this man's life.

"What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?"

"I beg you, don't torment me!"

- Completely wild, not controllable.
- No one could control this man.

Verses 30 to 39.

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Before Jesus arrived, this man experienced no peace.

- The reminder that not everyone that meets Jesus meets him as a baby in a manger, in a stable!
- He met Jesus as Almighty God – who cast a demon out of him.
- As Jesus the mighty judge.
- This is his first interaction.

For many of us our first interaction was as saviour.

People are introduced to Jesus at different times, places and circumstances.

It is possible for us that we say – There is no peace that I am seeing?

It is important for us to see Jesus as Almighty God.

In the previous situation – previous passage - **Wind and Waves Obey Jesus**

Jesus is God over creation – in the middle of a raging storm – Jesus in the boat crossing over.

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Who then is this?

Jesus has power over creation.

- In the middle of the storm the disciples fearing for their lives.

They should have been thinking we have the God of peace here; we have no need to be concerned!

Jesus also has control over the spiritual world.

They knew they wouldn't be able to do anything Jesus wouldn't let them do.

Jesus is Almighty God – Prince of Peace – who brings peace.

- We are to remember he is sovereign over all things.

Point of Reflection – That we have a number of our church family who are journeying through tremendous struggles, physical illnesses, facing major surgery and all that comes with that – Trusting that God will give them peace during this time.

Point # 1 – The Power of Jesus

- In control of all things – there is nothing that He isn't in control of.

Point # 2 – The Presence of Jesus

Jesus free's him from this encounter – restoring his relationship with God.

Romans 5:1 Christian Standard Bible

Faith Triumphs

5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace^[a] with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This man has peace with God because of his encounter with Jesus.

- Even the demons knew who they were dealing with - *Jesus, Son of the Most High God?*

Luke 1:30 Christian Standard Bible

30 Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

For those who don't have a relationship.

Romans 2:9-10 Christian Standard Bible

9 There will be affliction and distress for every human being who does evil, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek; **10** but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does what is good, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

In complete turmoil.

- No fulfillment they desire.
- It only comes through the person of Jesus Christ.

They see a man dressed and sitting in his right mind.

Luke 8:34-35

³⁴ When the men who tended them saw what had happened, they ran off and reported it in the town and in the countryside. ³⁵ Then people went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man the demons had departed from, sitting at Jesus's feet, dressed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

- The people were afraid!

Reference to commentary writer view on this passage.

- That they were confronted with their own sinfulness.

PEACE

Colossians 1:19-20 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,
²⁰ and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.^[a]

Point # 3 – The Peace of Jesus.

- Peace with God – putting our faith and trust in Jesus.
- Adopted as children of God.
- A peace that God produces in our lives.
- We can struggle and be troubled.

In John 14 we read of the disciples being troubled.

John 14:1-7 Christian Standard Bible

The Way to the Father

14 "Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe^[a] in God; believe also in me. **2** In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? **3** If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. **4** You know the way to where I am going."^[b]

5 "Lord," Thomas said, "we don't know where you're going. How can we know the way?"

6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you know me, you will also know^[c] my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

In the continuation of this scripture, we read of the Counsellor – Comforter coming.

- Jesus continuing to encourage them.

Luke 8:23-25 Jesus continuing to encourage them.

John 14:27 Christian Standard Bible

Jesus's Gift of Peace

27 "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful.

- We have a peace that passes all understanding.
- A supernatural peace.
- Not a fleeting peace.

We are to be a people who declare that peace – share that peace – so that others can have it.

- We are to share it with one another.

Ephesians 4:2-9 Christian Standard Bible

² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope^[a] at your calling— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷ Now grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ For it says:

**When he ascended on high,
he took the captives captive;
he gave gifts to people.^[b]**

⁹ But what does "he ascended" mean except that he^[c] also descended to the lower parts of the earth?^[d]

The Apostle Paul – "As much as it pertains to me, I am going to live at peace with all mean".

Philippians 4 Christian Standard Bible

4 So then, my dearly loved and longed for brothers and sisters, my joy and crown, in this manner stand firm in the Lord, dear friends.

Practical Counsel

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³ Yes, I also ask you, true partner,^[a] to help these women who have contended for the gospel at my side, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the book of life. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your graciousness^[b] be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Don't worry about anything, but in everything,

through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally[Ⓜ] brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—dwell on these things. ⁹ Do what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. – dwell on these things!

There is a lot of Mental Health and Anxiety today – but we can have this peace.

Verse 9 - ⁹ Do what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

- We can experience peace.

Poem Longfellow wrote:

He wrestled with what was going on in the world around him.

- Them of listening.
- Subtleness and confident.
- Even in the bleakest of moments of life.

Charles Appleton Longfellow – Poem – *see attached document.*

He knew that peace with God - produces the peace of God.

Question – Do you have peace.

Question – Christian, are you experiencing the peace of God.