

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 11, 2016

“From Heaven Above ~ The Gift of Peace”

Isaiah 11:1-10

“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” (Isaiah 11:1)

Isaiah’s vision was one of \_\_\_\_\_—even though the royal line of David—the tree had been cut down, almost leveled to the ground and completely lost—from the stump a new shoot would grow

“His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.” (Isaiah 11:4)

Isaiah had a vision of God’s promised \_\_\_\_\_ who would bring \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_; and most importantly, true and lasting \_\_\_\_\_.

Peace = *Shalom* =

Shalom is a rich word that carries with it the sense of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“In the days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit.” (Isaiah 27:6)

“...he grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.” (Isaiah 53:2)

Isaiah not only predicts and proclaims the birth of Jesus that first Christmas night—but also His coming as \_\_\_\_\_ of Glory at the end of the \_\_\_\_\_.

“See the Lion of the tribe of Judah the root of David has triumphed.” (Rev. 5:5)

THE 4 DIMENSIONS OF JESUS’ PEACE

#1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Dimension: Peace with \_\_\_\_\_.

“All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own.” (Isaiah 53:6)

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” (Rom 3:23)

6 APPROACHES TO THE WORLD’S PROBLEMS

- \_\_\_\_\_ Salvation by \_\_\_\_\_
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- \_\_\_\_\_ Salvation by \_\_\_\_\_

God’s solution:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Salvation by \_\_\_\_\_

“Above all else guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)

“...For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander.” (Matthew 15:16ff)

The heart of the problem is the \_\_\_\_\_—and there’s only one solution to the problems of the world: \_\_\_\_\_ solution.

“I will give them a new heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh...” (Ezekiel 11:19)

God’s salvation work reached its climax in \_\_\_\_\_.

“For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others.” (2 Corinthians 5:19)

“Adam failed, Jesus nailed, Grace prevailed.”

“Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)

**Do you have peace with God today? Or are you far away from Him? Do you see that Jesus is the only way to have peace with God?**

#2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Dimension: Peace of \_\_\_\_\_.

“I will lie down in peace and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe.” (Psalm 4:8)

Despite all of the stimulation and craziness of today’s world, God wants to give us \_\_\_\_\_ peace—a sense of calm \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves.

“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on you!” (Isaiah 26:3)

“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn’t like the peace the world gives. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” (John 14:27)

### EXPERIENCING JESUS’ PEACE

- Jesus’ peace is different from the \_\_\_\_\_ peace. The world’s understanding of peace is that it’s the \_\_\_\_\_ of something.

The peace that Jesus offers isn’t the absence of something, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of something. The presence of \_\_\_\_\_.

- This peace comes from \_\_\_\_\_ God rather than our own ability to \_\_\_\_\_.

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all He’s done. If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6)

**What trials or challenges are you experiencing today?**

**Do you have a sense of inner peace and calm or are you drowning?**

**Do you see that Jesus is the only way to have peace within yourself?**

### #3. The \_\_\_\_\_ Dimension: Peace with \_\_\_\_\_.

If you were to read the gospel accounts you’d see that Jesus had a way of bringing \_\_\_\_\_ people together.

“For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:26)

Through Jesus, we experience peace with each other because we recognize that we all share a common \_\_\_\_\_. We are all \_\_\_\_\_, in need of mercy and \_\_\_\_\_.

In Christ we learn what it’s like to be \_\_\_\_\_. And having been forgiven, we’re called to be more forgiving of each other.

It is seeing each other through \_\_\_\_\_ eyes and seeking to walk in God’s ways of:

**Are you planting seeds of peace of strife?**

**Is there anyone that you need to make things right with?**

**Do you see that Jesus is the only way to have peace with each other.**

### #4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Dimension: Peace for \_\_\_\_\_.

“Peace on earth, goodwill to all.” (Luke 2:14)

**Peace = Irene =**

It has the connotation of \_\_\_\_\_ something together and \_\_\_\_\_.

However, if Isaiah tells us anything, it’s that although world peace isn’t our current reality—the day is \_\_\_\_\_ coming when it will be.

“The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.” (Isaiah 11:6-10)

“He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.” (Micah 4:3)

Until that day comes, we have a job to do—to \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel of Peace in our daily lives.

“You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is lord of all.” (Acts 10:34)

**Do you have faith that somebody God’s perfect peace will invade the earth?**

**Are you an ambassador of that peace in your daily life?**

**Do you see that Jesus is the only way to have peace among nations?**

God’s promise of peace stands firm because God’s peace doesn’t depend on \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances—on what’s happening in or around us—it comes directly from God and is placed into our hearts.

“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

**Peace with God; peace with yourself; peace with others, peace among nations—which manifestation of God’s peace do you desire the most?**