

The 5th Sunday of Lent ~ Sunday, March 29, 2020
“Knowing God in the Midst of Our Scattering: The Lord Our Peace”
Ephesians 2:11-22

3 THINGS THAT STEAL OUR PEACE OF MIND

- Lack of _____.
- When people won't _____.
- When problems are _____.

Jesus not only understands this, He _____ with us. He wants to _____ to us in this season—He wants us to have peace. In fact, God promises us peace because it's one of our most _____ needs. And God will be _____ to keep His promises.

Jehovah-Shalom =

“So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it Jehovah Shalom—the Lord is Peace.” (Judges 6:24)

Shalom =

Jesus is our _____, and because of His death and resurrection, we who were once far off from God have been brought _____.

As a result, we can know the _____ of God's shalom, and we can have peace with _____, peace within _____, and peace with _____.

Peace isn't something we work for or _____—it's a free _____

Why don't I have it? Why is it so fleeting?

Peace has nothing to do with _____ living. If we have to wait until all our problems are _____ to be at peace, we're never going to get there.

The trials and challenges of life are _____; however, peace of mind doesn't come from conflict-free living—it's the result of three important decisions that we need to make.

3 DECISIONS THAT LEAD TO INNER PEACE

Decision #1: _____ what cannot be _____.
_____ about what we can't change won't give us peace. Becoming _____ or bitter about what we can't change won't give us peace.

Feeling _____ about things that can't be changed won't give us peace. And having _____ over things that can't be changed won't give us peace.

“I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have and with everything that happens. I know how to live when I am poor, and I know how to live when I have plenty. I have learned the secret of being happy at any time in everything. I can do all things through Christ because He gives me strength.” (Phil 4:11-13)

2 LESSONS ABOUT ACCEPTANCE

- **It is a _____ experience.**
- **We need _____ to do it.**

One of the things that keeps us from knowing God's peace is our desire to _____ and demand for an _____. We rarely find the answers to these questions because there's so much in life _____ our understanding.

3 THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND

- **Even though God loves us, He doesn't owe us an _____.** “But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me list?’ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and for common use?” (Romans 9:20-21)

God the _____, we are the _____.

- **Even if God did explain, we probably wouldn't _____.** “‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the Lord. ‘For as the heaven are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

God's mind is so much greater than ours—we can't _____ all the ways of God.

- **Explanations rarely bring _____.** What brings us comfort in these moments is the _____ of God in our life—not His explanations, but His care and _____.

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and

gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work.” (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

The Serenity Prayer

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time,

accepting hardship as the pathway to peace,

taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is; not as I would have it.

Trusting that You, God, will make all things right if I surrender to your will.

So that I may be reasonably happy in this life

and supremely happy with you forever in the next. Amen.”

Decision #2: _____ **in God’s loving** _____.

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

God gives peace to those who _____ in Him because they _____ on Him.

4 REASONS WHY WE HAVE PROBLEMS

• _____ **blew it.**

“When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone...” (Romans 5:12)

Adam and Eve gave into _____, allowing sin to come into the world, and we’re all paying the _____.

• **We have an** _____, **Satan.**

“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

• **We** _____ **it.**

Many of the problems in my life are the _____ of my own bad _____.

“Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always reap what you sow.” (Galatians 6:7)

• _____ **happens!** Sometimes the pain in our life is _____ fault.

“This happened so the glory of God may be displayed in his life.” (John 9:2)
Sometimes problems come into our life for no understandable reason; however, we need to see them as _____ for God’s glory to be

displayed through us.

3 RESPONSES TO UNCONTROLLABLE SITUATIONS

- Try _____, grit our teeth, and push on. And the more out of control life gets, the more _____ we get.
- Wave the white flag and _____. We give up and fall into hopelessness and _____.
- _____ the loving care of God.

“Give all your worries and cares to God because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

Decision #3: _____ **to God’s loving** _____.

We have a decision to make—who is going to be _____ of my life—me or God? Often we make the _____ choice, and we take the driver’s seat.

“So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.” (Romans 8:6)

God uses the things that come into our lives to shape our _____; force us to our _____; and to remind us that we’re totally _____ on Him.

If we want to experience God’s peace—spirit, soul, and body—we need to surrender control of our life to Him

“Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.” (James 4:10)

The evidence of a surrendered life is always _____.

“**‘The mountains and hills may crumble, but my love for you will never end; I will keep forever my promise of peace.’ So says the Lord who loves you.**” (Isaiah 54:10)

It is in these moments that we need to remember we’re not _____. Our God is Jehovah-Shalom—The Lords our Peace. And we can know this peace even in the midst of our struggles.

This is what our faith is all about—not that life will be easy or things will always work out as we _____—but that no matter what happens, God is with us—and His love, power, and peace is _____ than anything this world can throw at us.