

SERMON | JESUS BROUGHT PEACE

SERIES | CHRISTMAS SEASON

STUDY GUIDE | ALEC SEEKINS | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

SERMON SUMMARY

There is a lack of peace in the world which manifests itself in many different ways. At the root of all of this conflict is the sickness of sin. Accepting Jesus' sacrifice and coming into relationship with Him is the only way to completely deal with that sickness, not just manage the symptoms. That is why when Jesus was born, the angels declared, "Peace on earth and goodwill toward those upon whom his favor rests."

God Himself came into our world. Jesus was born, the Son of God, and fully God Himself. God from God, as light from light. He was begotten, not made. Coeternal with the Father. A mystery as enigmatic and beautiful as the impossible origins of this universe. Just as this universe cannot be both infinite and finite, and yet is. So also, God cannot be both infinite and eternal God, as well as finite and temporal man, and yet He was, and is, and is to come.

Eternal and man, so that He could pay for our sins. He was born, lives, died, and rose again for us. He was arrested, mocked, beaten, stripped, paraded, tortured, crucified, and died to pay for our sin, guilt, shame, and to restore us to peace. One silent night our Savior was born and one dark day He was pierced for our transgressions, the birth and punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

SCRIPTURE READING

READ THIS WEEK'S BIBLE PASSAGES: Isaiah 9:5-7; Isaiah 53:5; Luke 2:8-14 (NIV)

⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. – Isaiah 9:5-7

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. – Isaiah 53:5

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." – Luke 2:8-14

BIBLE PASSAGE QUESTIONS

What stood out to you in these passages? Did the Lord highlight anything to you? What do we learn about the heart of God from these passages?

Read these passages again (use a different translation if helpful). How did these passages help to convict, correct, or encourage you?

GROUP DISCUSSION

DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR GROUP

1. In what ways have you seen Jesus bring peace?
2. When we have a lack of peace, we often try to manage the symptoms. Sometimes it's not enough to manage the symptoms and we need to deal with the root cause of the sickness. Jesus is the only way to truly bring freedom and healing from the sickness of sin in our lives.

How have you seen the fruit of Jesus' peace after dealing with roots of sickness in your life? What has the Lord taught or shown you through that sanctification process?

3. In what areas of your life are you still waiting for Him to complete that peace?
4. Each Sunday this month, we're presenting the Gospel and inviting people to give their lives to Jesus. Who in your life can you invite to church, so they can hear the good news of the Gospel?

PRAYER

Take some time for prayer requests and pray over one another before wrapping up.

