



New Beginnings, Volume 2, 2008
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John 14:27

“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.”

The words written above are part of a monologue that Jesus shares with his disciples after the Last Supper meal and shortly before his arrest on the first Good Friday. Jesus knew that in just a matter of hours the lives of all the disciples would be turned upside down. Jesus had shared with them in the past the need to go to Jerusalem and that it would mean that he would have to lay down his life. Now as the events leading up to his crucifixion were about to unfold, he knew he had to try and prepare them once again for the completion of the mission he had come to earth to fulfill. He wanted them to be able to “survive” the challenges they would face not only to their physical well being but more importantly to their faith.

The peace that Jesus offers to his disciples is the same peace that he offers to all who acknowledge him as Lord. It is important to understand that the relationship that Jesus had with his disciples was both personal and intimate. We all too often forget that the disciples were not only students of Jesus but also servants of his. They understood him to be the Lord, the Anointed One of God. Only at the end of their ministry together would Jesus call them friends. The peace that Jesus is referring to in this passage is a deep knowing in the heart of God’s love and concern no matter what the circumstances might be. It is an assurance that God is in charge, and because we know that God

“is love”, we can trust God and thus know this peace that passes all understanding. It is a peace unique to God. It is a peace available to those who love the Christ, who service him unselfishly and who acknowledge his Lordship in their life and in the world.

The peace of the world as we all know is at best partial and transient. How many Mideast Peace Accords have there been just in the last 60 years? We hand out Nobel Peace prizes to those who in the end do very little to promote any sense of lasting peace. These are sadly little more than photo ops while the real Price of Peace is ignored. There is no peace unless there is peace with God through Christ Jesus. All there is in this world is an uneasy truce between people until one of them decides they have an opportunity to gain an advantage. That’s the nature of a broken humanity and the historical testimony to the fact is irrefutable. It’s the peace of God that lets Jesus pray for the very people who are crucifying him. It’s that peace he offers to you if you’ll just invite him into your heart and place him in a place of honor in your life.

Are you looking for real peace in your life? Are you tired of the empty promises of the world? Then start anew and invite Jesus the Christ to be your teacher, your Lord and your friend.