

RENEWED PEACE

John 20:19-23

- **Peace is something everyone seems to want, and few people seem to have.**
- **Many people live without peace, which is a miserable way to live.**
- **The two biggest issues that rob us of peace are frustration and fear.**
- **Some people mistakenly believe that peace comes from avoiding problems or appeasing people.**
- **The Bible teaches we can experience: 1) Relational peace (peace with others), 2) Spiritual peace (peace with God), and 3) Emotional peace (the peace of God) in our lives.**
- Jesus - *"I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."* (John 14:27)
- ***What can we learn from today's story that will help us have more peace in our mind and heart?***

Living A "Peace-filled Life" Requires:

UNDERSTANDING THE REALITY OF <u>PROBLEMS</u>

- *"That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders."* (John 20:19)
- **Everyone will have to deal with *Adversity* at times.**
    - Jesus – *"In this world you will have trouble..."* (John 16:33)
    - **Circumstances don't have to rob us of our joy and peace in life.**
    - *"Whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow...When your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything."* (James 1:2-4)
- **Everyone will have to deal with *Antagonists* at times.**

    - **Conflict with others will happen for people striving to live godly lives.**
    - *"Anyone who belongs to Christ Jesus and wants to live right will have trouble from others."* (2 Timothy 3:12)
    - **While conflict with others is at times inevitable, reconciliation with others should be pursued.**
    - *"Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible."* (Romans 12:18)
    - *"Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."* (Ephesians 4:31-32)
    - **God has called us to be peacemakers rather than "peace-breakers."**
    - Jesus – *"God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God."* (Matthew 5:9)
- **Everyone will have to deal with *Anxiety* at times.**
    - *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything."* (Philippians 4:6)
    - **Worry is the opposite of peace, and the result of an unrighteous, ungodly imagination.**
    - Jesus – *"Don't worry...saying, 'What shall we eat?' What shall we drink?' 'What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your Heavenly Father already knows your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."* (Matthew 6:31-33)
- ***Who or what am I allowing to keep me from experiencing 'peace' in my life?***

Living "Peace-filled Lives" Requires:

DEVELOPING THE RIGHT <u>PRACTICES</u>

- **Living "Peace-filled Lives" requires *Connecting with Other Believers*.**
    - *"That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors . . ."* (John 20:19)
    - **Meeting together with other Christians in *Life Groups* and Worship Services helps us to experience peace even during troubled times.**
    - *"Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another..."* (Hebrews 10:25)
- **Living "Peace-filled Lives" requires *Experiencing the Lord's Presence*.**
    - *"Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! 'Peace be with you,' He said."* (John 20:19)

    - **We can meet with Jesus daily through prayer, worship and Bible reading.**
    - *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:6-7)
    - **When we meet with Jesus He will fill our hearts and minds with joy as well as with peace.**
    - *"As He spoke, He showed them the wounds in His hands and His side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!"* (John 20:20)
- **Living "Peace-filled Lives" requires *Fulfilling God's Purposes.***
    - *"Again He said, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I am sending you."* (John 20:21)
    - **Our Heavenly Father has called us to do what Jesus came to do.**
    - Jesus - *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed..."* (Luke 4:18 NKJV)
    - **The Lord has called each of us to serve Him by ministering to others, using the gifts and abilities He has given to us.**
    - *"He (God) has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago."* (Ephesians 2:10)
    - **When we're serving the Lord by serving others, we will have God's peace in our lives.**
- **Living "Peace-filled Lives" requires *Living Daily in the Spirit's Power.***
    - *"Then He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'"* (John 20:22-23)
    - **God's Spirit enters our lives at the moment of salvation (John 3:3-5, Acts 2:37, Ephesians 1:13-14).**
    - **The Holy Spirit empowers our lives when we surrender ourselves completely to Him (Acts 8:4-17).**
    - Jesus - *"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."* (Acts 1:8)
    - **When we have spiritual power we will have supernatural peace in our lives.**
- ***What steps do I need to take in order to live a more peace-filled life?***

- **We can have Relational peace (peace with others) in our lives.**
    - *“Do your best to live at peace with everyone.”* (Romans 12:18)
- **We can have Emotional peace (the peace of God) in our lives**
    - *“Because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel.”* (Philippians 4:7 CEV)
- **We can have Spiritual peace (peace with God) in our lives**
    - *“Since we have been made right with God by our faith (in Jesus Christ), we have peace with God.”* (Romans 5:1)
- *“Let the peace of God rule in your heart...”* (Colossians 3:15)
- ***What is the Lord communicating to me through this message?***