

Day of Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

John 14:23-27
June 5, 2022

Life with the Holy Spirit offers Jesus' unparalleled peace.

- Let us pray the **Prayer of Peace** - normally prayed at Evening Prayer (Vespers)
 - ♦ *Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*
- “*that peace which the world cannot give*” - drawn from John 14:27
- The part about *the fear of our enemies* is obvious to find peace.
- Why the opening line? ...*that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments?*
- Look carefully. All these thoughts are found in our text.
 - ♦ Like a unique bowl of spaghetti - a single long noodle twisting this way and that.
 - ♦ They seem independent, until the end is pulled. They are one as Jesus teaches us:

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❖ How does the world offer *peace*?

- Maintain law and order. Civil peace, but many troubled lives.
- Seeking peace by avoiding conflict at all cost - a facade of *peace*
 - ♦ Allowing bullies to get their way in the name of *peacemaking*.
 - ♦ Is it real peace for the intimidated who walk on egg shells around them? No.
 - ♦ Neither the bully or the bullied are fulfilled in this false peace.
- People are left hurt, resentful, and unfulfilled - far from peace.
 - ♦ The frail *peace* of a world that seeks to fix the problem themselves.

❖ The Peace Jesus leaves and gives.

- It comes with his gift of the Holy Spirit - our personal Advocate/Counselor
 - ♦ The Spirit is our personal tutor in Jesus' word imparting its **knowledge** and **skills**.
 - ♦ Through Jesus' word we've come to cherish Jesus and his word.
 - ♦ Cherishing it we **gladly obey** it. - It's not obedience if done with resentment!
- NIV: *obey*; CSB & ESV: *keep*; EHV: *hold on to*
 - ♦ **Treasure** as priceless, not giving up his teachings for anything.
 - ♦ **Holding to** all of his teachings. They are **all true** - a **package** of all we need.
 - ♦ **Cling to** his word, it changes me, I'm conformed to Jesus' image - not visa-versa!
 - ³¹ ... “*If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.*” ³² *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*”
 - ♦ Jesus' word is **my life** - where I actively live, what I see as life, the life I breathe in.
 - ♦ *Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you.*
 - ♦ ...*that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments.*

- What does this have to do with Jesus' unparalleled **peace**?
 - ♦ Jesus addresses our lack of peace, attacking the **source of the problem - sin**.
 - ♦ Jesus' full atonement - ***paid in full*** - silences our peace-robbing conscience.
 - This is the **firm foundation** and **wellspring** of the peace Jesus gives.
 - ♦ The Lord personally vowed to **be our God** - gospel, Baptism, Communion - Isa. 43:1-2
*But now, this is what the LORD says — he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel:
 “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.
 When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.*
 - The promise to protect you against forces of nature, hell, and hostile people.
 - ***Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.***
 - ♦ As a command we can use it to silence our fear-filled Old Self.
 - ♦ But his is chiefly a gospel imperative empowering you with his word
 - Remember our God disciplines us with challenges to renew our hope in him.
 - Let the Spirit lift your eyes to remember Jesus' words and promises - Jesus reign
 - Instead of being ruled by your fear and feeling, let his peace fill you: *You are mine*
 - You are not alone. *The Father and Son made their home with you.*
 - ♦ Our humble home is seriously upgraded and secure with their presence.
 - ♦ This leads us to recognize the renovation he has planned for us.
 - ♦ Jesus came to save us from our *so-called-life* **replacing it with real life**.
 - Sin by definition is death, for where sin is it separates us from God.
 - As Jesus' word moves us to clean house of our sin and its broken life
 - His word comes in and fills us and our life with riches and treasures.
 - These treasures are not lifeless ideas and facts. They are a living active word.
 - It fills us with *holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works*
 - ♦ The desires that disappointed are replaced with desires that never disappoint
 - ♦ His counsel guides us in rich paths of righteousness.
 - ♦ Our life is enriched with activities that serve him and train us in life.
 - This is **the Lord's peace** - *Shalom* - a life that is made **whole** and **well** in Jesus.
 - The emptiness and brokenness produced by our sinful nature living in a sinful world is replaced with the unparalleled wealth of our God, all in Jesus' word.
 - To daily see, learn, be trained in, and recall this - Jesus gives us our Advocate.
 - The Spirit puts the spotlight on Jesus for this full life.
 - Jesus wants us to appreciate and let the Spirit work to make his word our life.

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