



Gathering at 502 Pike Street, Superior MT

TITLE: CHRISTMAS: THE GIFT OF PEACE

TEXT: Matthew 1:18-25

DATE: 18 Dec 2022

MATTHEW 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

²⁰ But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.

²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

²⁴ Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

²⁵ And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called His name JESUS.

Let's Begin Together with Some Opening Thoughts

Thoughts About PEACE in General

1. "Ok, let's start with the obvious, what does every beauty queen contestant reply as their number one wish;" *I just pray for world peace.*" As usual, such heartfelt answers were quickly forgotten as the swimsuit portion of the contest began.

2. "Ok, let's just say the obvious, *there has not been real-lasting peace since God expelled Adam and Eve from the peaceful-perfect garden; case in point ... Cain and Abel.*"

3. "Yes, we have had through the years all kinds of peace attempts with such things like peace accords, peace treaties, peace truces, peace talks, agreements, offerings, and so on."

- Back in the day, President Kennedy, even made an effort, so to speak, in reference to peace in the world when he started the governmental organization known as the 'Peace Corp.'"
- Since its' beginning in 1961, young people have been sent all over the world, *to remote locations around the globe to promote world peace and friendship, improve lives, and share American experiences abroad.*"
- No, not going to delve into the pros and cons of this organization but to *simply point to the ongoing unsuccessful attempts by man at trying to arrive at peace in our world.*

4. "Hey, I know, let's ask a great question, 'What is peace anyway?' Many are just quite satisfied in defining peace as simply the absence of conflict. Got Questions states, "Peace is something everyone wants, yet few seem to find. What is peace? It can be defined as 'tranquility, harmony, or security.'" Depending on the situation, it could mean 'prosperity' or 'well-being.' Various forms of the word 'peace' are found **429** times in the KJV of the Bible. There are different types of peace, including false peace, inner peace, peace with God, and peace with men."

5. "So, world peace (everyone's choice), a simple statement fits here: "No Jesus, No peace -- Know Jesus, Know peace!"

6. "I remember my mother saying, after what must have been a trying day, "*Let me just sit here a minute and have a moment of peace and quiet*"; and when that did not happen, she often gave us a piece of her mind!

7. "Peace? Do you have peace in your life right now, are you at peace? If not, why not and if not, do you know how to find that peace in your life that seems to be missing?"

Thoughts About God's Gift of PEACE, Specifically

1. "God's Gift of Peace: God promised to send peace, His gift of peace to this world: Isaiah 7:14: Therefore, the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

2. "God's Gift of Peace: God promised that His peace would never end: Isaiah 9:6-7: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

3. **“God’s Gift of Peace:** God also pictures the reality of having and knowing His peace personally in:

Psalm 34:14: Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Psalm 37:37:Mark the perfect man and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.

Isaiah 26:3:Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.

4. **“God’s Gift of Peace:** God’s promised Messiah, Saviour, Prince of Peace made His presents known as reported in:

Luke 2:10-14: ¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

5. **“God’s Gift of Peace:** God, through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, purchased and offers His peace to every person. Just prior to His arrest, crucifixion, death, and resurrection Jesus spoke these words recorded in:

John 14:27: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 16:33: These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

6. **“God’s Gift of Peace:** God’s plan for peace is fully presented in His free gift of salvation which is offered to all as explained clearly in the Bible, especially in the book of **Romans:**

Romans 1:16,17:

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Romans 3:23:

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 6:23:

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:1,8:

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

⁸ But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9-10, 13

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

7. "**God's Gift of Peace**: God's plan for peace in the life of every believer can be seen again in the Bible; His blueprint for an abundant life in Christ. In closing, let's identify the biblical steps to a daily walk *of peace, in peace* with our Lord:

Colossians 1:20,

²⁰ And, having made PEACE through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Colossians 3:15

¹⁵ And let the PEACE of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Galatians 2:20

¹⁵ And let the PEACE of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Philippians 4:4-9

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

⁵ Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

⁷ And the PEACE of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

⁹ Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of PEACE shall be with you.

CONCLUSION

Quick Questions: Do you think there was a time when Joseph needed some peace? If so, did he get it and how? (Hint: God sent him a Word!)

"Have you personally received God's gift of PEACE; is Jesus Christ your Savior & Lord?"

"If you have personally received God's gift of PEACE, are you growing in relationship to Him?"

"Enjoying a personal relationship with Jesus through God's gift of PEACE, are you helping others to find & grow in their walk toward or with Jesus?"

INVITATION

"Jesus offers His **gift of PEACE** to you; will you receive His **gift of PEACE** today?"