**Livin’ the Life**

**Different Kind of Peace**

**John 14:25-31**

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We are in our series in the Gospel of John, Livin’ the Life, looking at the life of Jesus and the life he promises us. Today we are looking at 14:25-31 which is part of a larger section, chapters 13-17, where Jesus teaches his disciples how to follow him after his death. Jesus comforts his disciples as the struggle with fear of their future with the promise of peace.

**Rest in the Source of True Peace (27).** Jesus promises his disciples peace by way of the Father sending the Spirit. So, I want to start with the promise of peace then come back to the promise of the Spirit. We are often fearful when life does not go our way, when our future is unknown, uncertain, or threatened in some way. This fear robs us of peace or peace of mind because we don’t feel safe or protected. Fear and peace are antithetical to one another

The disciple are troubled and fearful but Jesus is the one who should be fearful. He is facing a most gruesome and agonizing death on a cross in a few hours but he is at peace – my peace I give you. Besides that, his concern is not for himself but his disciples. I find that astonishing and comforting. Jesus is always there for us in our struggles in life. Jesus going to the cross is what secures his peace for us. What is this peace Jesus promises? Peace is being steady in unsteady times, it is being at rest in restless situations, it is having confidence when circumstances tell us otherwise. Many of us have circumstances which fear can rob us of peace. But Jesus says, do not let your hearts be troubled or be afraid, I am giving you my peace. Jesus wants us to be fearless. His peace is not based upon circumstances or situations going our way. Jesus does not promise to change our circumstances, he promises to give you peace in the midst of troubling or fearful circumstances. Jesus promises us his peace and his peace is qualitatively different than the peace the world offers. The world offers peace that is often superficial and transitory. It offers peace of mind that comes from a large savings account or comfortable retirement or health or by controlling our destiny. If you rely on the peace the world offers it will be as fleeting as the fog that rolls in and out of Homer. Jesus promises to give us peace that is qualitatively different than the world offers that comes from believing his word.

**Believe in the Trustworthiness of God’s Word (25-26).** His peace comes to them by way of his promise of the Spirit. Trust my word, I have spoken these things concerning my death now but after I am gone, I will still be with you by my Spirit. In other words, your future is secure because of my word. This is one of the reasons we put so much emphasis on Scripture here at CCC, the word of God is trustworthy. Jesus is saying, when things get tough or your memory fades, be at peace because the Spirit will be there for you. The Father will send the helper, the Holy Spirit, who will teach you all things and remind you of all that he told them. The Spirit is another helper who replaces Jesus in the life of disciples (14:16) but more significantly, the Spirit will not only come alongside them but also indwell them precisely because Jesus goes to the cross. The work of Christ, his death on the cross, his resurrection, and returning to the Father triggers a historical redemptive event in which the Father sends the Spirit to indwell and come alongside them by empower them to follow Jesus. You are fearful of your future without me and are confused but I am not leaving you as orphans (14:18), my presence will be with you by the Spirit. The work of the Spirit is described in two ways here. First, the Spirit will teach them all things, clarifying and giving them understanding to his teaching. And you see this happening after the Spirit comes at Pentecost, they understand Jesus and his teaching distinctively different. It’s like everything comes together for them. Secondly, the Spirit will help them remember everything he taught them. That is, the Spirit will help them remember everything that need to communicate and write and keep them from error. This may surprise you, but the disciples did not have smart phones to record Jesus’ teaching. As they wrote the New Testament, the Spirit gave them clarity on Jesus’ teaching and reminded them of what was necessary to communicate and write.[[1]](#footnote-1) Johns gospel is the fruit of this promise! They think everything is going to fall apart with Jesus’ death and Jesus is saying that his death secures his future ministry and their involvement in it. But they cannot see past their own fear. Our bibles, particularly the New Testament, was secured by Jesus’ death. The word of God is trustworthy and more important than any other source of information in your life because it creates and sustains faith (29). The word has many benefits in our lives but most importantly, it creates and sustains faith. It is critical if you follow Jesus to listen to his word, to meditate on it, and yes, to memorize it. In their darkest hours, he is teaching to create and sustain faith in them. So Jesus’ point is don’t be troubled or be afraid because I give you my peace by way of the Spirit who will be in you and with you to help you as I have.

**Find your Joy in God’s purposes (28).** Jesus’ peace comes by aligning ourselves with God’s purposes. This means following Jesus in our beliefs, in our lives, and in our behavior. The disciples are troubled and fearful because they cannot understand that his death can be part of God’s purposes. If they understood that then they would have rejoiced in his going to the Father (28). His returning to the Father is returning to his former glory that he had before he humbled himself to take on human nature (17:5). What does Jesus mean by the Father is greater than I? Jesus and the Father are of the same substance, equal in terms of divine nature and glory and honor. But Jesus humbled himself by taking on human nature, taking on the form of a servant and dying on the cross on our behalf (Phil 2:6-8). In terms of the limitations Jesus subjected himself in the incarnation, the Father was greater than he but he is returning to his former glory. The disciples should have rejoiced in the joy Jesus had in going to his Father. Jesus’ own peace and joy came from his relationship with and his closeness to the Father. Our peace and joy comes from Jesus’ joy in his Father and knowing that one day we will join him in his joy for eternity (Mat 25:23).

**Believe that God is in Control of the Future (29-31).** Jesus told them about his going before it took place so that when it did, they would believe. He is talking about Judas betraying him and his death on the cross (13:19) according to God’s plan. Jesus is saying, trust that I am in control of the future. Judas won’t catch me off guard, my arrest will be no surprise, and the cross is not a mistake. Don’t be surprised when it all happens. Jesus controls the future because he is sovereign, not Judas who betrayed him, not the politicians who hand him over to death, and not the religious leaders who plotted his death. Satan does not have the last word, Jesus does. Jesus is not forced to go to the cross, but goes because he loves the Father and his committed to obey him (30). Satan is alive and active and powerful and at the same time Jesus overrules over evil and Satan. All things always go according to the plan of God, even the cross, for the ultimate good of his people and his own glory. He is sovereign over evil in such a way that he is not the author of evil and humanity is still responsible for their choices (Acts 2:22-23; 4:27-28). Because Jesus is sovereign, he is trustworthy. If Jesus is not sovereign over everything then you cannot confidently trust him. You can only hope he will be able to work things out for your good.

Questions for Life Groups:

1. What are some of the circumstances in your life that trouble you or create fear?
2. What is your gut response to trouble or fear in your life?
3. Why was Jesus at peace just hours before his death?
4. How does Jesus connect his peace with the giving of the Spirit?
5. What are the two ways Jesus describes the Spirit helping the disciples after he is gone?
6. How does that apply to us today?
7. How is Jesus speaking to you from these verses?
8. How does Jesus want us to respond to these verses?

1. See how often, after Jesus ascension, the disciples remember and understand the events in Jesus’ life and his teaching in a new light. See for instance Mat 26:75; Luke 2:48; John 2:17, 22; 12:16; 16:4). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)