



Sermon Notes from 28 April

The Gift of Peace (*John 14:27, Philippians 4:6-7*)

by Pastor Thomas Lim

The disciples of Jesus, having witnessed Jesus' power and miracles, were confused, troubled and anxious after hearing from Jesus about His betrayal, arrest and death.

Jn. 14:1 - Knowing their troubled hearts, Jesus assures them by telling them that He would not leave them as orphans (Jn. 14:8a) and that they would have the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit with them (Jn. 14:16) that would teach them all things (Jn. 14:26). He also assures them of His peace (Jn. 14:27). Jesus was focused on the peace in their hearts that they did not have. Peace is essential to everyone. It is the desire of every beating heart.

While peace is essential, there is a difference between the peace that exists either by the absence of danger or self-enlightenment, and the peace that Jesus offers. The peace that Jesus gives is a supernatural peace. He desires to bring us into His peace.

Ro. 5:1 - The only reason why Jesus could give us peace was because on the cross, He took it all: our pain, uncertainties, stormy past and all our sins. We have been reconciled to God! He wants us to experience His peace in our hearts and minds—one that the world cannot offer.

Biblical peace is unrelated to circumstances. No matter what you are going through, you can still experience God's peace. Both the apostle Paul (who started all his letters with 'grace and peace') and Peter believed peace to be a believer's portion (2 Pe. 1:2). In this life, we would never be able to experience enough peace. *'Every day, we need new measures of peace for new moments.'* – John Piper.

Php. 4:5b-7 - What you cannot see past; the peace of God surpasses. Reading this passage without looking beyond the practical actions will tempt you to reduce it to a formula. The bible is about the revelation of who God is; it is knowing and trusting in a person. Formulas can turn us away from that person and cause us to rely on a series of steps.

Php. 4:5b - The Lord is close to you. He is present with you now. He is available and willing to come to your help. This changes the emphasis from how we pray to a God that has come close to us. If the Lord is near to help and strengthen us, we don't need to be anxious; rather, we can pray to God about everything!

2 Practical Reminders from Paul

1) Do not be anxious about anything

Php. 4:11-12 - Supernatural peace produces supernatural calm. Christian peace is not the absence of fear, anxiety or worrying thoughts, but the presence of God Himself (Php. 4:9).

2) Pray and pray

Col. 4:2 - The problem is not about praying but going to God for everything in our prayer. We can do this because He is sovereign! A greater, better and more God glorifying end will come about through steadfast prayer! Look towards Jesus – the Giver and Source of peace!

Jn. 16:33 - In this life, we will have fears and anxieties, but Jesus wants us to experience His peace in our hearts. He is inviting us into His peace (Jn. 14:27). Do not flee from fear and anxiety! Face them with the truth: that God in Christ has redeemed, reconciled, rescued and restored us (Isa. 9:6)!