

"A WORD OF PEACE"

Luke 24:36-49

The language of peace is spoken so frequently that we often take it for granted...

- We seek "peace and quiet"
- We are told to "make peace" with our past
- We expect the police to "keep the peace"
- We say "rest in peace" when a death occurs
- We hear about "peace treaties"
- We see protestors flash the "peace sign"

Unfortunately, there is a lack of peace in the world. Wars and rumors of wars dominate the news cycles. There is a lack of peace in our nation. Political and racial tensions constantly boil beneath the surface. Furthermore, there is a lack of peace in our homes. Families are fragmented and dominated by a love for the things of this world. Is there any hope?

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CFBC... *"First Words of the Resurrected Christ"*

Before Jesus was arrested and crucified, He gathered His anxious disciples in the upper room and gave them last minute instructions and encouragement. He included this phenomenal promise . . .

John 14:27... "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

The *"peace"* that Jesus provides is not necessarily the absence of pain or pressure or problems. It is a sense of completeness and fulfillment in a believer's life. This supernatural peace produces a powerful sense of confidence that the Lord knows what He's doing and that He is totally competent to accomplish His purpose in our individual lives, in our world, in our nation, and in our families. Here's the truth I want you to lock in on today . . .

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CFBC... *"First Words of the Resurrected Christ"*

JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE PEACEMAKER!

Our focus for the last several weeks has been *"First Words of the Resurrected Christ."* We've already examined His first words to Mary Magdalene (**A WORD OF HOPE**) and to the two disciples walking toward Emmaus (**A WORD OF TRUTH**). This morning's message takes us to the upper room during the evening of that first Easter Sunday.

Find Luke 24 in your Bible. This thrilling chapter opens with several godly women arriving at the Lord's tomb and discovering that the large stone that sealed the tomb had been rolled away. Two angels appeared to them and announced that Jesus was alive.

The story then shifts to two demoralized disciples walking toward Emmaus. They were unaware that the risen Christ had joined them on their journey. He explained how the Old Testament prophecies pointed to the atoning death and glorious

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resurrection of the Jewish Messiah. Cleopas invited the stranger into his home and served Him a meal. That's when the disciples finally recognized Jesus. He immediately vanished. Cleopas and the other disciple went back to Jerusalem to share the good news with the other disciples who had retreated to the upper room.

Luke 24:33–35... And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, 34 saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon." 35 They *begun* to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

Can you imagine the buzz that this news created? What would Jesus say to them? Keep in mind that they had missed the obvious. Jesus Himself had stated on several occasions . . .

"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day."

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They had abandoned Him when He was arrested. Peter denied Him three times. Suddenly Jesus appeared to them . . .

Luke 24:36–38... While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you." 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. 38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?

They quickly assumed that they were seeing a ghost, the spirit of Jesus. They were scared to death. Notice the emphasis on the phrase "He Himself." This was Jesus in the flesh. The Lord Jesus offered them **physical proof** when He said:

Luke 24:39–40... "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

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This was not a "*spiritual resurrection*." It was a "*physical resurrection*!" Christ's resurrection body was a real, physical body with flesh and bones...

- **He could be seen.**
- **He could speak.**
- **He could be touched.**
- **He could appear and disappear.**

Resurrected believers will one day have bodies like His resurrected body.

Philippians 3:20–21... For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **21** who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

The disciples who had isolated themselves in mortal fear were now overwhelmed!

Luke 24:41–43... While they still could not believe *it* because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; 43 and He took it and ate *it* before them.

It was almost too good to be true. Jesus had conquered death and the devil! To insure that the disciples locked into the truth of the Lord's bodily resurrection, He even ate some food. Ghosts don't do that! After providing physical proof of His resurrection, Jesus then laid out for them rock-solid biblical proof.

Luke 24:44–47... Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from

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Jerusalem. 48 "You are witnesses of these things. 49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Jesus instructed them on the necessity of biblical truth and spiritual enlightenment. I pray that the Lord will open our hearts to understand that...

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Jesus instructed them concerning the significance of His atoning sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. Through repentance and faith our sins can be forgiven, and we can receive the gift of eternal life. Jesus highlighted the challenge of proclaiming this gospel message to all nations 'beginning in Jerusalem' (vv. 46, 47).

Jesus told them that "HELP" was on the way. They had been witnesses before (see Luke 9:1–6); yet for this task they would need greater help.

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Jesus told them to wait 'until you are endued with power from on high' (vv. 48, 49).¹

Okay, what were the first words out of the resurrected Lord's mouth as He encountered His disciples in the upper room?

Luke 24:36... While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you."

The Son of God did not get on to them. He didn't ridicule them. He offered them His own supernatural peace.

CONCLUSION

Do you see why I'm seeking to place this truth in your memory bank...

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¹ Gavin Childress, [*Opening up Luke's Gospel*](#), Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2006), 216.

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"No Jesus, no peace.

Know Jesus, know peace."

I want to close the sermon by asking you three important questions . . .

Are you at peace with God?

Contrary to popular opinion, we are not born good and then go bad. We are sinners by nature and by choice. We can have peace with God only through the ultimate peacemaker, the resurrected and reigning Christ.

Romans 5:1... Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:8... But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Receive Him as your Savior and Lord by faith today.

Are you at peace with yourself?

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Why is it that so many Christians who have peace with God never get to the place of having the peace of God in their lives? They are filled with anxiety, fear, loneliness, and anger. The ultimate peacemaker has made His peace available to you.

Philippians 4:6–7... Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Receive it by faith!

Do you have peace in your family?

The 1995 film, *While You Were Sleeping* offers a window into a family's search for peace with one another. In one scene, the dad, Ox Callahan, talks with one of his sons about taking over the family business.

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Jack, the older of the two sons, has dreams of his own, and those dreams do not include following his dad's dreams for him. Ox reflects briefly, saying...

"You work hard, try to provide for the family, and then, for one minute everything's good, everyone's well, everyone's happy, and that one minute, you have peace." Then Jack replies slowly:

"Pop, this isn't that minute . . ."

Life, love, expectations, dreams, and family relationships are hard in our fallen world. These challenges often create conflict, division, hurt, and sadness. Don't forget...

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Psalms 34:14... Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

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Colossians 3:15... Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Romans 12:18... If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Forgive each other when you get hurt.

Love each other unconditionally.

Tamp down any anger that springs up.

Encourage each other with your words.