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Advent Week 3 – 2022 – PEACE - UPDATE

Scripture – Exodus 14, Leviticus 3:6, Numbers 6

Main Message – There is no Joy without God, no Hope without God’s Promises, and no Peace without comb.

There is no lasting JOY aside from the foundation of which God has made in this world. There would be no Hope if the Lord, in his mercy, did not give us his plan from beginning to end in the form of Jesus Christ, the word made flesh. We would have no chance at peace if we did not recognize the holistic nature of all these things that God has done. When we celebrate Advent, we are called into remembrance so we do not forget that God, who loved us first, established us in this world for His good and perfect will.

Peace takes many forms. There is more than one meaning to the word in its usage in our language and the original languages in the Bible. In nor particular order they are:

Peace – as in be still, silent, composed.

Peace – as added with the word sacrifice to address the need for reconciliation

Peace – as in friendship, in salutation and in blessing

Lets look at each of these and how important they are for us to recognize and implement into our lives.

The first way peace is used in the Bible and rarely in our culture anymore is to basically say, be quiet – listen, learn, and watch. There is an overabundance of words these day brought about by the ridiculous amount of communication – most of which is utter garbage. Everyone has an opinion, that’s certainly no different, but sometimes you just gotta be still. Some need to practice this lost artform. For Example, **Exodus 14**. All the children of Israel got yet another lesson to see the Lord work in his majesty. The alternative if they all got together and talk about it would be to go back to Egypt, slavery, and a half-life of existence. The leader, Moses didn’t crumble and give in thank God.

The second way peace is used is to reconcile a situation between others. This is much more pronounced than I ever realized when looking into scripture. Giving a peace offering to the Lord was an appeasement, temporary of course for God until Christ came to be sacrificed on our behalf, but it also has value for our own living in peace. It shows a humbleness of heart when we say a heartfelt sorry with no BUTS attached and give of something dear to us in order to be reconciled. It is good for all parties. A common phrase today is “I’m sorry, but....” What I hear is Sorry, not Sorry. No one is edified by that. **Read Leviticus 3:6**. Offering a peace offering with a substandard gift is that “BUT.”

The final one is basically the word Shalom. Its not used so much in our culture when we greet people. We just say HI, or Hello. Sometimes we say Good Day/morning/evening. I’m lazy here as well. A more formal salutation adds quality and character to the greeting. We should probably do that more often. As an example, from the word, I’ll use one I occasionally use as a benediction. **Read Numbers 6:22-27**.

This season of Advent brings so many opportunities for us as Christians to demonstrate the qualities of being a child of Almighty God. Bring Peace into your heart and demonstrate it to others by just being still and silent when turmoil and chaos swirl around you, reconcile wrongs with those you love, including our Father in Heaven, and be at peace with your fellow sojourners here in the world and except god blessings of peace upon you. Seriously, that is what Angels told us that on earth PEACE and GOOD WILL TOWARD Men on whom HIS FAVOR RESTS.