

Sunday 19th April 2020 Theme; Peace be with you Martin Sykes

StF 314: *This joyful Eastertide*

Lord's Prayer

StF 293; *All heaven declares*

Readings : Psalm 32 & John 20; 19-31

Your own Prayers for others

StF 394: Spirit of God

Message for Kingswood MC for Sunday 19th April 2020 John 20; 19-23

At this very difficult, frustrating and worrying time for us all, it seems like an ideal moment to pause, ponder and reflect on three important words, Peace, Joy and Hope.

We all long for Peace of mind & heart, something to be Joyful about and something that offers us Hope for the future.

In our Bible Reading to today, we read that on that first Easter Sunday, "when Jesus entered the room, He stood among His disciples and said, "Peace be with you".

He calmed, equipped and charge His disciples, three things we all need to consider today.

- 1. On Easter evening, The Disciples were together and frightened, but as soon as Jesus appeared and identified himself to them, their fear left them and was replaced by a sense of PEACE.**

Jesus, being a Jew would not have used the word "Peace" but would have used the Hebrew word for Peace which is Shalom.

Hebrew words go beyond their spoken pronunciation. Each Hebrew word conveys feeling, intent and emotion.

Shalom is more than just simply Peace; it is a complete peace.

It is a feeling of contentment, completeness, wholeness, well-being and harmony and is seen as a Gift from God so that the Messianic age would be one of Peace.

So, when Jesus said to His disciples, "Shalom be with you", it was more than just Peace - He was talking about Contentment, Completeness, Wholeness, well-being & Harmony - all these things gave peace of heart, mind, body & soul.

Many look for Fulfilment Happiness & Contentment through material things - but true Shalom for a Jew can only be achieved in the word of YHWH - for us as Christians, we can achieve this through Jesus, the Prince of Peace which perfectly describes the ministry & personality of our Messiah.

Jesus sacrifice for sin brings people peace with God followed by inner personal peace.

The Symbol of Peace is the Olive Branch & the Dove - Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at His baptism in the form of a Dove - Jesus was anointed and equipped by the Holy Spirit

When Jesus told His disciples, when they entered a house to first say, "Peace to this house", He was of course talking about Shalom, but I like to consider that he was also referring to the symbol of Peace the Dove - the Holy Spirit coming upon that house and to those who lived there - He, the Holy Spirit would comfort and convict them of their sin and prepare them to receive the Messiah.

But it is significant that the Holy Spirit was pictured as a dove at Jesus' baptism, thereby once again symbolising peace with God.

So, in these tough times we can experience true Peace, true Shalom in knowing and trusting Jesus in all things.

- 2. When Jesus came and stood among His disciples, they were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.**

In 1978, Bible translators went to visit the Canadian Inuit (Eskimo) people in the Arctic. They successfully translated the Bible, but when they got to John 20: 20b, they were stumped. You see, the Inuit language doesn't deal in abstract concepts, so they struggled to find a verb that conveyed the idea of being 'overjoyed'. Then one of the translators hit on a perfect solution. He noticed how close the bond was between the Inuit men and their husky dogs and how when the men got up in the morning to let the huskies out the dogs were so overjoyed that they wagged their tails with great delight. The translator suggested that they used this idea in the Inuit Inuktitut translation of the Bible.

In 1991, the Inuktitut translation of the Bible was published at a cost of \$1.7 million and John 20 verse 20b reads, '**The disciples wagged their tails when they saw the Lord.**'

It is important to realise that there is a difference between happiness, which can be very superficial and very up and down, and a **JOY** which comes from a relationship with Jesus by the power of His Holy Spirit.

Happiness comes from our circumstance, from what happens to us, whereas joy comes within, from knowing Jesus!

As we encounter Jesus, He fills us with New Peace, Hope and Joy!

The emphasis so far has been an inward one. Jesus loves to come into our midst and change us ... but He doesn't leave us there. He doesn't just want to change us and bless us.

3. **He wants to do something in us so that we can go out and change the world and so He brought HOPE.**

Hillsong Church is a charismatic Christian megachurch and Christian denomination that originated in [Sydney](#), New South Wales, Australia back in 1983 and today has over 80 churches worldwide. The church is also known for its worship music; indeed, we have one of their hymns in STF.

Back in 2011, there was shooting massacre in Norway when Anders Behring Breivik killed 77 people. The song, "Cornerstone" was born out of that terrible event.

One of Hillsong's worship leaders, Reuben Morgan was leading worship at their church in Stockholm, Sweden when the massacre happened.

"As you can imagine", he says "everyone was just really shaken by the event. It's the kind of thing that turns the place upside down. Everybody seems to be related or knew somebody that was affected. So, I got together with a couple of my friends, and we were talking about it. We just wanted to write a song that was going to help the church respond to people coming to church, to respond to what had happened, and just be able to make a bit of sense of it. We wrote "Cornerstone", which is a hymn that says, "**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.**" That just felt like the right thing to be singing.

The new chorus, "**Christ alone, Cornerstone, weak made strong, in the Saviour's love,**" to me that's just when everything is shaken and nothing seems to make sense, we really need to just be building our lives and putting our faith and our trust in the "Cornerstone", the Foundation and it's Jesus.

To me, there's nothing else you want to be singing in a time like that and projecting that Christ is the foundation even when everything looks uncertain. So, Peace (Shalom), Joy & Hope are three words that offer us so much at this time in our lives.

Peace, Joy and Hope to you, your family, your friends, your neighbours and all those whom you love. Amen

StF 693: Beauty for Broken-ness

StF 487; you shall go out with Joy

Blessing

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **Amen**