

2021.03.14 Sunday Sermon <Jesus' Gifts>

Psalm 9:10

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.

John 14:27

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

I am glad and thankful to be here worshiping the Lord with you again. Today, I would like to talk about gifts Jesus Christ gave us. First, He gave us eternal life - something we can receive once we are in heaven. Second, He gave us peace which is something we dearly need here on earth. Just like unwrapping a gift box, let us unwrap the gifts Jesus Christ gave us through today's scripture.

In today's scripture, we see Jesus saying these words to the disciples while He is hung on the cross. As I was reading through today's scripture and preparing for this sermon, three key message came to me.

1. There is No Eternal Life Here on Earth

- Let us look at the image of a world map. The red indicates cases of Covid-19. According to the report on 3/13, in Bucks County, 1,153 people have died due to this virus. In U.S., total of 532,000 people have died and throughout the world we have lost 2.64 million people. Due to this virus, wherever we are, we are living in fear. The reality we current live in, there is no eternal life nor peace.
- One columnist wrote about letters he receives from his readers. Most of these letters have similar theme...readers are constantly living in anxiety due to issues in health, career, family, friends, and the uncertain futures ahead.
- In August 13, 2004, Hurricane Charley landed on Florida. Danny Williams, 25 year-old man was looking for a secure place and decided to find shelter under the large bodhi tree. This tree was a well-known tree in Ft. Meyers as a secure post to shelter during hurricane seasons. Unfortunately, the tree fell due to the strong winds and Williams was killed. Just like Williams' case, there are times when we think we are in a safe place but it could be the total opposite...Jesus is telling us it is difficult to find peace here on earth.
- Let us look at image of the White House. So many candidates go through grueling campaigns to enter into the White House. During the campaign, they work so hard to secure a seat thinking the White House will provide everything he or she dreamt of. Yet once they enter into the White House, they all meet the difficult reality and overcome with anxiety. Former President Jimmy Carter even said, as he looks back at his career...the time spent in his farm at Georgia was heaven and his time in the White House was more like being in hell. Jesus Christ is telling us that there is no eternal life nor peace here on earth...

2. Worldly Items Can't Provide Peace

- The second message the Lord is telling us is that the peace that He provides is different from what the worldly things can provide us. If you have worked hard to get rich, but you are taking sleeping pills to fall asleep in a great mansion...then you are not living a peaceful nor a happy life. If you have the money to buy medicine but still do not have health...then you are not living a peaceful nor a happy life. If you have the money to buy expensive cream but still do not have the beauty you are desiring...then you are not living a peaceful nor a happy life.

- Study says 80% of lottery winners, especially those who win millions of dollars, end up dying due to worries and anxiety.
- Let us look at an image of a medicine bottle. The world items only provides temporary peace...just like the pain killers. The more pain killers you take, you become addicted and end up ruining your life.
- Howard Robard Hughes Jr. (December 24, 1905 – April 5, 1976) was an American business magnate, investor, record-setting pilot, engineer, film director, and philanthropist, known during his lifetime as one of the most financially successful individuals in the world. Yet, his later years, he suffered from severe obsessive compulsive disorder. At the time of his death, his reclusiveness and possibly his drug use made him practically unrecognizable. His hair, beard, fingernails, and toenails were long—his tall 6 ft 4 in frame now weighed barely 90 pounds, and the FBI had to use fingerprints to conclusively identify the body. The reason why I am sharing this story is that the worldly things can't not receive eternal life nor peace that the Lord provides.

3. Only Jesus Christ Can Provide Peace

- Third message is that only Jesus Christ can provide peace. As you see in the image of Jesus looking into a child's face, you can see Jesus Christ providing peace for this child. Just as He provided peace for Mary and to His disciples after His death, only He can provide that peace for all of us.
- When Peter was put in trial and was captured, he was able to sleep because of Jesus gave him the peace.

Acts 12:6

⁶The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.

- Paul was also captured inside the prison. He was tortured but he was still at peace because of Jesus' gift.

Philippians 4:12-13

¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

- My brothers and sisters, when you are worried or under stress, remember that Jesus Christ provided peace for all of us.

In Summary:

Remember, Jesus Christ gave following **gifts** to all of us who believe in Him and His Father.

1. Eternal Life

- **John 3:16**

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- Jesus Christ gave us eternal life by giving up His own life. So if you believe in Him, you will be saved and will be given eternal life. Please do not take this worship as a social meeting. Please

remember that as you accept and believe in Him, you are receiving an amazing gift of eternal life in heaven where there is no virus nor worries.

- Right before President Eisenhower's death, Pastor Billy Graham came to visit. He asked Pastor Graham to stay bit longer this day. Eisenhower opened up and said, "I'm not sure how to meet God. Please help me. This is my last request." Pastor Graham responded, "We are all sinners, there may be things we did well and we did not. However, God will still confirm that you are His child." Graham continued to pray for the president and at the end, Eisenhower said, "Billy, thank you. I am ready now." Eisenhower closed his eyes in peace.
- My brothers and sisters...we MUST accept and believe in Jesus Christ.

2. Peace

- Jesus Christ second gift to us is peace. Out of all people, Paul truly received most peace from Him. We can see this in following verses in Philippians.

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Just as Paul was...we must be thankful for everything the Lord gives us. When you continuously give Him thanks, your worries and anxieties will disappear. You will be filled with peace and joy.

- During the independence movement, Pastor Nam-Seon Joo was subject to surveillance due to a movement against shrine worship. After that, he was called by the police several times as a result of the campaign against visiting the shrine. When he was inside the prison, Japanese police tortured him by..tying two thumbs with strings on a crossbeam, spilling red pepper powder in his nostrils, putting a piece of wood between fingers and crushing them...but even after all these tortures...the police could not change the pastor's mind. He said, "I can think about it a hundred times, the same is true. There is no other god but Our Lord." After the grueling sessions, he came back to his cell and prayed earnestly to the Lord for a long time to overcome this ordeal. He fell onto the floor and fell asleep while praying. In his sleep, he suddenly felt a cozy blanket covering his body and the cold concrete flooring warming up. He knew it was the Lord Himself...he was able to live because of peace under the Lord's arms.
- I pray that the Lord will be with you all as He was with Pastor Joo. As I give praise to the Lord during the week, this particular hymn touched my heart.

*Jesus, Saviour, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee.
Saviour, pilot me.
Though the sea be smooth and bright
Sparkling with the stars of night
And my ship's path be ablaze
With the light of halcyon days
Still I know my need of Thee;
Savior, pilot me*

*As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
When Thou sayest to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea,
Saviour, pilot me.
When at last I near the shore,
And the fearful breakers roar
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me,
"I will pilot Thee."*

- We do not know what tomorrow will bring. Let us accept, believe, and lift up His name. Let us continue to unwrap the gift boxes and receive eternal life and peace He brings to us.