

Guided to the Cross Bible Study

Lent, 2024

Session 4 – Guided to Peace

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE)

INTRODUCTION: The story of Horatio Spafford is the story of a man rocked by tragedy upon tragedy. He lost a fortune in the Chicago Fire of 1871 and lost his four-year-old son to scarlet fever the same year. Thinking a vacation would do his family some good, he sent his wife and four daughters on a ship to England, while he planned to join them later. But the ship sank in the Atlantic, drowning his four daughters. Soon after, on a ship to England to meet his wife who survived, Spafford sailed over the exact spot where the ship sank and remarkably penned the words, “When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say, ‘it is well, it is well with my soul.’” That is the story of what Jesus on the cross does for us even in the midst of tragedy; he brings us peace to our souls, peace that passes all understanding. Let his peace rest upon you this Lent and through this study.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Jesus, you bring peace to troubled times then and now. But during this Lent, we remember especially the peace that you brought to our hearts, souls, and minds through your death on the cross. Darkness may come, the earth may shake, storms may gather, but your peace calms them all and settles us comfortably in the hands of our God, who quiets us with his love. Amen.

REFLECTION – When have you been scared in the middle of a storm? What, if anything, brought you peace in that moment?

INTO YOUR HANDS

Read Luke 23:44-46.

- What are the physical signs of upheaval in the world during Christ’s crucifixion? What are some other signs Matthew 27:51-53? What do these signs represent?
- How do Jesus’ last words in Luke 23:46 signal peace?

Read **Psalm 31:1-5**

- How do these words reflect how Jesus is feeling during his last moments on earth, when he utters the same words that are used in Psalm 31:5?

Read **Psalm 145:14-20**

- What do the hands of God provide for us and provide for Jesus at his death?

HIS PEACE

Read **John 14:27-29**.

- How is the peace that Jesus brings different than the peace that the world gives?
- Why does Jesus' connection to God the Father bring us peace?
- Why is it important that we take time to think about and reflect on the moment of Christ's death on the cross?

SUFFERING SERVANT

Read **Isaiah 53:4-5**.

- How does the suffering of Christ grant us peace? What healing does Jesus provide?

Read **Isaiah 53:7-10**.

- What is held in Jesus' hand as a result of the pain he endured?

Read **Isaiah 53:11-12**.

- How is the concept of intercession related to the idea of peace?

MAKING PEACE BY HIS BLOOD

Read **Colossians 1:15-20**.

- What role does Jesus play in the Church? What role do we play? Why are these roles good for us to remember?
- What holds us together as the Body of Christ?
- What does reconciliation mean?

Read **Colossians 1:21-23**.

- How does what Jesus did help us to proclaim peace to one another?

RESPONSIVE READING – PSALM 34:1-7

¹ I will bless the LORD at all times;

his praise will always be on my lips.

² I will boast in the LORD;

the humble will hear and be glad.

³ Proclaim the LORD's greatness with me;

let us exalt his name together.

⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me

and rescued me from all my fears.

⁵ Those who look to him are radiant with joy;

their faces will never be ashamed.

⁶ This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him

and saved him from all his troubles.

⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,

and rescues them.

Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

CLOSING HYMN

Red #377

“It Is Well with My Soul”

It Is Well with My Soul

When peace like a river attendeth my way

When sorrows like sea billows roll

Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say

It is well, it is well with my soul

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come

Let this blest assurance control

That Christ has regarded my helpless estate

And has shed His own blood for my soul

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought

My sin, not in part, but the whole

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul

**And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul**

**It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul**

CLOSING PRAYER

O Jesus, you put yourself in the hands of the Father when you died on the cross. Help us to remember that we are in good hands too because of what you accomplished on Calvary. We are no longer tossed about by the storms of this world, but we find safe harbor in the protection of your peace that surrounds us. Allow us to be purveyors of your peace to calm the troubled hearts of so many with the soothing sound of the Gospel. Amen.

VERSES FOR THE WEEK

Mark 4:35-39

³⁵ As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." ³⁶ So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). ³⁷ But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

³⁸ Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

³⁹ When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm.

New Living Translation (NLT)