

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. How would you define Peace?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. In what ways do you work at creating peace? Do you naturally resist problems, avoid difficult people, stay away from storms?
 - a. Compare your answer with Warren Wiersbe's quote, "Real contentment must come from within. You and I cannot change or control the world around us, but we can change and control the world within us."
 - b. Have you heard people say, "I have a peace about..." Do you ever question those words? Why?
3. Peace is mentioned 429 in the bible. There are different types of peace that is described. Please read 2 Corinthians 13:11. What type of peace is mentioned in this verse?
4. Thomas `a Kempis said, "First keep peace with yourself, then you can also bring peace to others." Does this make sense to you?
 - a. How does this quote relate to Galatians 5:22?
5. Let's look at this famous story involving a storm and peace. Please read Luke 8:22-25. Do you think Jesus knew there would be a storm?

- a. What assumptions do we make about doing life with God and storms?
 - b. Compare with John Ortberg's quote, "Obedience to God is no guarantee of being spared adversity."
 - c. Compare Luke's version with Mark 4:37. Water was coming into the boat! This was the breaking point for them. You would think Jesus was recognize water getting into a boat as a reason for worry. But, Jesus actually chastised them for not trusting.
6. 8. The Stoics said, "The secret of contentment is to kill urges and desires." Their example is who is happier, the person who wants \$100,000 or the person who doesn't want anything. The minute you want something, you will lose your peace. How can you relate this the disciples looking at waves verses looking at Jesus?
7. How do these verses relate to peace? Isaiah 9:6; John 16:33; Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 3:15; and 2 Thessalonians 3:16.
8. 10. Do you know the One who is in your boat?

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- MOST PEOPLE TRY TO MANUFACTURE PEACE
- Peace is mentioned 429 times in the bible
- Peace is not about your efforts to control your circumstances, but it's about a relationship with God. It's a HIM.
- The more you KNOW the God of peace, the greater your desire will be to be at peace with others.
- "Obedience to God is no guarantee of being spared adversity." - John Ortberg
- Spiritual maturity is all about the discipline to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.
- Don't convince yourself the storm is BIGGER than your God.