

4-30-23 - Baptism- Hudson John Radic at 8:30 a.m. service

Scripture- John 14:23-29 CTW Ps. 67

Sermon- *If You Loved Me, You Would Find Peace*

Hymns- 591, 403, 499

Theme- If we would just take some time to understand the depth and breadth of God's love for us, we would learn how to love Him in return. When you are in God's peace, joy and contentment permeate your life. But God's peace is not like the "peace" that the world offers. The world bases its peace on its resources, often on material things. While God's peace depends on, and is based on, relationships. To be right with God means to enjoy and bask in the peace of God.

I. Introduction "You can trust me..... Go ahead and Jump!"

A. I do not think there is a parent that has not said those exact words at one time to their children. Be it by a pool side, or at the playground. We would repeat those words. All the while patiently or impatiently standing there ready to catch them, with arms open wide!

Both my mother and father did this for me: they were trying to show me things like safety and trust and love, because in all of that is peace. Do you remember the sense of peace as a child? It is the same way with God and the wonderful, grace and peace that He extends to each of us!

I remember on more than one occasion, having to convince my kids to let me throw them up in the air, out in the open water of the pool.

And only after they felt both the thrill of the moment and the safety of my presence did they say these three words repeatedly,

"Do it again, Do it again!"

...Until the point when I became fully exhausted!

II. Our Father in heaven has his arms open wide... He is always there ... he is always available.

He never grows tired of hearing his children, asking Him to do it again, do it again... forgive me again.

A. Yet so many in this world do not trust him. And If we are honest there are times when we too really **do not** trust him.

This passage tells us that if we did really trust Him, why would we let our hearts be troubled? In verse 1 of this passage, Jesus tells his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled, Trust in God trust also in me!"

Why would we ever worry? Indeed....think about it...Why would we ever worry?

If we constantly lived in that trust, we would have confidence that He will be right there to catch us, that he would be right thereto provide for us.!

Listen again to **John 14:27:**

"**Peace** I leave with you, **my peace** I give unto you: I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

B. Do not let your hearts be troubled, do not let your hearts be filled with worry, do not be afraid.

When you rely on the Grace that Jesus freely gives, then there is

a peace, a peace that the world cannot give... a peace that passes all human understanding.

It is truly an amazing grace! It truly is an amazing peace, Amen!

And It comes by trusting in God's grace, trusting that his grace is sufficient.

And Once you have experienced that peace, the stress of the world will begin to melt from your very soul.

One thing is certain, once you have tasted this peace, you will seek to mature in it.

To let it permeate every aspect of your life.

III. In the end "Peace" Peace of the soul is what this flesh is truly seeking.

A. Peace is what the world is also seeking. Yet they cannot find it.

Why?, because it is spiritual it cannot be found in what the world offers! It is a peace that the world cannot give.

There is an old adage "don't sweat the small stuff,". Well, God wants you to know, It is all small stuff when you place it in His hands.

We are called to give our burdens to God to lay our burdens down. Jesus reminds us "My yoke is easy and my burden is light".

B. But far too often after we lay our burdens down we return to take them up again.

And when we take that burden back, when we pick that burden up. Our yoke again becomes heavy and there is no peace. If we are honest, we do not allow him to be Lord of every aspect of our lives. The key, is to not only lay our burdens down, but to walk away and to leave them there! To trust him completely.

God is the constant that sustains us through the roller coaster of life, whether we are up or we are down, He remains the same.

He is the same yesterday, today and forever. We have a gracious loving Father that we can trust.

C. The answer to the Peace that passes all understanding is found in God's miraculous Grace.

He does not want you to be fearful. He does not want you to be worried. He wants you to have peace.

And to walk in that peace, we must trust Him. There is no doubt that life can be hard at times. There is no doubt that there are hardships in life that come when we least expect them.

Though our trials may be tough. Though our trials may be long, they come with the promise of a reward.

D. The real reward is Peace-a peace that the world cannot give... The "Shalom of God".

Shalom means much more than the absence of war or the absence of distress. **Shalom means wholeness, completeness, health, security, even prosperity in the best sense.**

When you are enjoying God's peace, there is always joy. When you are in God's Peace joy and contentment permeate your life.

But God's peace is not like the "peace" that the world offers.

The world bases its peace on its resources, often on material things, while God's peace depends on and is based on your relationship with Him.

To be right with God means to enjoy and bask in the peace of God. In the world, peace is something you hope for something you work for. But to the follower of Christ, peace is God's wonderful gift, a gift received by faith.

The world enjoys peace when there is an absence of trouble; Christians, followers of the Christ enjoy peace **in spite of** trouble, and in spite of trials.

Why? Because the presence of the Holy Spirit is within us! The Holy Spirit Is within our very being.

His holy presence is living within us, within those that call Jesus their Savior and Lord.

People in the world walk by sight and depend on the externals, followers of the Christ walk by faith and depend on the Eternal.

The Spirit of God teaches us and guides us, into all truth. Jesus is clear **"Those who love me will keep my word."**

IV. Conclusion: Jesus is the Word made flesh. He promises to give us love, to give us joy, and to give us peace.

If that does not calm a troubled heart, nothing will!

A. We have the Holy Spirit within us, our Savior above us, and the Word before us! What a tremendous resource for

peace!

God wants us to understand that neither Satan nor the world can trouble our hearts if we yield to the "peace of God" through the Holy Spirit.

This morning we had the honor of baptizing a wonderful baby boy with a great strong name- HUDSON JOHN RADIC!

Did we go through that ceremony because it was something we needed to check off our list of things to do? NO! Did we do it because we needed to please somebody in the family who was insisting that we go through this ancient ritual? ABSOLUTELY NOT!

We did this because all of us, without exception, want little **Hudson John Radic** to know, enjoy, and **DWELL IN the Shalom of God!...and someday when he is able, we would love him, (by living example), to show others that Shalom!**
Just Think of it! Hudson and others like him could set the example which would turn this world for God!

B. It has been said that Christians are supposed to dwell in the light of the Lord, and that light, which never extinguishes...is the peace of God the Father Almighty!

Ladies and Gentlemen, God wants your heart to be at rest ... to be at peace. When you accept God's grace...When you depend on God's grace, your heart becomes established in that grace.

That is His heart's desire for all of us...what a pure joy it is to baptize another person into that peace! Shalom! **Amen! Let us Pray!**