



“ADVENT SERIES WEEK 2 PEACE (absence of Fear)!” 12-4-16

Please catch recent sermon series at our website www.ENJOYLWC.com

Also find the “BEACON Devotional” at the website.

We like to start with something funny each week: I heard about this pastor. He found this small box hidden in his wife’s closet. There were 6 eggs and a thousand one dollar bills. He asked his wife about it. She explained how every time he preached a bad sermon she put an egg in the box. After 35 years of ministry he was feeling pretty good about himself. Only 6 bad sermons. He asked her where the thousand dollars came from. She said, “Everytime I got a dozen eggs, I sold them for a dollar.” OOPS! *(Good feeling gone!)

- I found 3 eggs and \$700 in my wife’s closet this week! I was just estatic about the \$700!



We have a tradition: Grab your Bible and hold it up today:

“THIS IS MY BIBLE

I am what it says I am!

I HAVE what it says I Have!

I CAN DO what it says I can do!”

Today I WILL be taught the Word of God,

I boldly CONFESS: My Mind is Alert,

my Heart is Receptive, I will NEVER be the same, In Jesus name. (Pray)

Week 1 Nick shared with us about the **PROTECT YOUR HOPE!** Keeping that ember safe from all harm this week : Safe by Prayer/ Reading your Bible/ and giving God the Thanks! ☺

(I will speak alone this week// Pc will bring the JOY next week)

Today in week 2 of Advent I want to talk to you about “PROTECT YOUR PEACE!”:

We are all still recovering from Thanksgiving. Amen!?! At the end of Thanksgiving didn’t you just want a PIECE! You know what I mean?

- A Piece of Apple pie!
- A Piece of Pumkin!
- And my favorite! A piece of my Mother in laws Pecan! YES!!! You just want PIECE.

(DID YOU PROTECT THAT PIECE??? That momentary piece of sugar high? Yes Sir!)

WE ALL HAVE UPHEAVAL/ ANXIOUS MOMENTS/ BREAKDOWNS, Conflict and we seek PEACE!

- Many default to FOOD to bring you Peace,What is it called?”**COMFORT FOOD!** Right? After a Bills loss you just want to console yourself with some of Heather’s chocolate chip zuchhinni bread! (Yes, I have had too much this season! Stop it!)

Philippians 4:5-7 **The Lord is near.** 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, in which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Not “the **PIECE OF PIE** from the weekend will guard your heart and mind”
- Not “the piece of gossip of those doing worse than me will make me feel better.”
- (In English language "peace" is the absence of resistance or strife! Anyone have the absence of resistance????? There is NO HOPE for peace with that definition...
 - Anyone here a parent? Yep, well there goes ANY HOPE AT THE AMERICAN DREAM OF PEACE!
 - Anyone a child who doesn't always agree with parenting? There goes your shot a peace!
 - Anyone Work for a living??? Have a boss?? Go to school and have teachers?
 - Anyone have a VEHICLE to maintain? ? A House? An Apartment! THERE GOES YOUR SHOT AT PEACE IN AMERICA!!!! YOU HAVE NO HOPE !!! Have a lovely afternoon. !

BUT WAIT! THERE IS A biblical Translation of PEACE! It's Hebrew root “Shalom”, which means "to be complete" or "WHOLE!..")

PEACE has a SOURCE. Peace has a NAME. Peace on earth is found in only ONE PLACE. ... And the peace (WHOLENESS) of God . God alone is the source of peace, for he is "Yahweh Shalom" (see Judges 6:24).

So this morning we want to talk about “PROTECT OUR WHOLENESS OF GOD- PEACE” Let's see how Mary, Jesus mother to be, would PROTECT HER PEACE in what was about to be a BOMBHELL in her life!

- ✓ **Purpose: For those of you who feel like LIFE JUST DROPPED THE BIG ONE!**
 - Listen and learn from Mary.
 - For those who feel MORE FEAR and ANXIETY than PEACE – This is for US!

Scripture Focus: Luke 1:26-38 ²⁶ God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said (PICTURE YOURSELF minding your own business, ALONE! And an ANGEL OF GOD BOOM! SHOWS UP! Where is PEACE when you get interrupted with something terrifying!?) Gabriel says: “Greetings,^a favored woman! The Lord is with you!^b”

²⁹ **Mary was greatly troubled (fearful) at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.** ³⁰ **“Don't be afraid, Mary,”** How Gabriel must looked at her with ALL of God's LOVE and LIGHT and the PEACE OF GOD flowing through him to her “Don't be afraid”

What thing right NOW are you “AFRAID OF?”

- Afraid I cannot pay the rent/ Afraid I cannot afford gifts for my children
- Afraid I will die of this health issue/ Afraid I will NEVER FIND a job.
- Afraid I don't have the strength to finish the dream God has given my heart.
- Afraid I won't ever meet that right person and get married..... afraid.

³⁰ **“Don't be afraid, Mary,”** (Turn to your neighbor and say “Shhh, Don't be Afraid”)

I think this is where we so quickly fall of the tracks and THROW PEACE and CAUTION to the wind when we FREAK OUT FIRST and choose GOD'S PEACE as last resort!

Illustration: The new washer we got 5 years and 11 days ago had a break down in 2015! Inside the 5 year plan. The guys came out. Did a \$400 repair on a \$600 machine. They even said, “They might charge you for labor.” ... but didn’t

SO IT HAPPENED AGAIN! Worse than before! (MY WIFE KEPT SAYING “You better call them” as I kept saying “THEY WON’T DO ANYTHING! WHY EVEN TRY! You call them!”

But she “protected her hope!” (Nick Nick) and called them back just 3 days before the warranty was up! The snowstorm on that Monday. While I was Mr. Negativity. The repair guy gets done and says “Well, that’s NEVER happened before. They told me they won’t fix it (I felt immediately vindicated in my adamant complaints at cleaning the laundry room and removing the heavy granite counter top and the hundreds of things stored on it!!!! What a the waste of time it was!)” (But the repair man continued his sentence: They told me they won’t fix it ... “because they authorized a full replacement with the upgraded model. Enjoy!”

My wife got that look that only a gloating confident winning wife can get! (it looked like this☺

Now that was a story about my wife protecting GOD’S PEACE! And me learning lessons!

..... (But not every story has a free washer at the end! Back to the Mary story!)

³⁰ “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!” (Gabriel is SHOUTING THIS! SEE THE EXCLAMATIONS!) Your Son Mary will Heal the Sick! He will Raise the dead! HE WILL FORGIVE THE SINS OF THE WORLD!)

³⁴ Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.” This is where Mary nearly caves to the fears and doubts - and WHO WOULDN’T!? Mary Peace is tested by REAL DATA!

Data Update:

- Mary is a young teenage girl.
- Mary is a virgin, she has never been with a man.
- Mary is engaged to be married to Joseph.
- NONE of this data seems to jive with “you will give conceive and give birth”.....

What’s your “data update”

- Lord, I don’t make enough to pay for everything breaking down! (peace unprotected)
- how can a spouse come into my life?! I am tired of being hurt! (Peace unprotected)

³⁵ The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month.³⁷ For the word of God will never fail.”

Look at your neighbor and say **“GOD WILL NEVER FAIL!”** God knows the end of this from the beginning! PROTECT YOU PEACE BE KNOWING THAT GOD IS PEACE AND HE WILL NOT and CANNOT fail!!!!!!

MARY CHOSE PEACE!

³⁸ Mary responded, **"I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true."**

So from Mary we learn this about Peace: **PROTECT PEACE BY SUBMITTING TO YOUR PLACE IN THIS WORLD! You are not who man says you are! You are WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE! You are the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true."**

Remember - Peace is "WHOLENESS / COMPLETENESS" of GOD! It is NOT the absence of conflict and plan changes!

When you drop your peace and pick up a handful of anxiety, you have actually DROPPED GOD. In that moment we have dropped THE WHOLENESS and completeness OF "Yahweh Shalom"! your Peace is left unprotected and replaced with

- **Negativity.**
- **Coldness.**
- **Emptiness.**
- **Bitterness.**
- **Brokenness.**
- **Sin.**

Lastly this morning: The greatest to protect God's Peace (Wholeness) is to stop sinning. How many of us are breaking known commands of God (the definition of sin) and wondering WHY THERE IS NO PEACE????

Scripture specifically states (Isa 48:22; 57:21) "There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked."

Paul describes the difference: **"There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Rom 2:9-10).**

Do we WANT THE FAVOR OF PEACE? Choose THE WHOLENESS OF GOD WHO IS PEACE.

Let's all pray this out loud together repeat after me **"Lord Jesus (repeat), forgive me of my sins (repeat), come into my heart (repeat), I make you my Lord and Savior (repeat)."**

Romans 10:9 "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

(Raise hand if you prayed that prayer for the first time)

Reflection Questions:

1. **To what are you tempted to ask, ‘How can this be?’ that the Lord may be saying to you?**
2. **What fellow Christians do you need to seek out to keep from being alone any longer?**
3. **Where are you following your own life’s plan rather than the Lord’s?**
4. **In what areas of life are you experiencing distress or fear? What might these experiences say about your heart towards the Lord?**