

Peace and Rest in God

December 16, 2018

John 14:25-27 ESV

25 **These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.**

26 **But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.**

27 **Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**

- *The world's peace is circumstantial, always shifting, never stable, never consistent.*
- *The peace that Jesus gives is eternal, absolutely independent of human and earthly circumstances, based upon the Person and character of God.*
- *The peace that Jesus gives is His ever-abiding Person and presence; He never leaves us nor forsakes us. And His peace surpasses the most horrific of circumstances, making the unbearable bearable, the impossible possible and the most painful the sweetest.*

Matthew 11:28-30 ESV

28 **Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

29 **Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

30 **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

- *Jesus gives two critical principles for experiencing the peace of God in your heart, mind and everyday life:*
 - *Absolute surrender to His will, His plan, His care*
 - *Learning from Jesus*

Hebrews 3:7-11 ESV

7 **Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice,**

8 **do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,**

9 **where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.**

10 **Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.'**

11 **As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'"**

- *The peace and rest of God that we experience is wholly contingent upon:*
 - *"...the Holy Spirit...will teach you all things..." John 14:26*
 - *"...learn from me..." Matthew 11:29*
 - *"...they have not known My ways..." Hebrews 3:10*
- *God took Israel to the wilderness where there was nothing capable of sustaining life (no food, no water) to teach them that He was all they needed. In the very worst and most dire circumstances, He can miraculously sustain life with His very Person, presence and power. But they never learned the lesson of the wilderness.*

Lessons from the Wilderness:

1. To walk by faith and not by sight.

2 Kings 6:15-17 ESV

15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2. God's abiding presence is greater than the worst of circumstances.

Acts 7:54-60 ESV

54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him.

55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56 And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57 But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

58 Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

What the children of Israel refused to learn in the wilderness is exactly what Adam and Eve never learned in the garden of Eden.

- **God is all we need. He is the answer for every need and the satisfaction of every desire.**
- **We can safely trust in His plan, His care and His provision. We need not look anywhere else.**

Genesis 3:1-6 ESV

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Genesis 2:8-10 ESV

8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.

*The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
10 A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.*

Genesis 2:15-17 ESV

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 3:17-19 ESV

17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Deuteronomy 29:2-29 ESV

2 And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land,

3 the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders.

4 But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.

5 I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn off your feet.

6 You have not eaten bread, and you have not drunk wine or strong drink, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.

7 And when you came to this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan came out against us to battle, but we defeated them.

8 We took their land and gave it for an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of the Manassites.

9 Therefore keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.

10 You are standing today all of you before the LORD your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel,

11 your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water,

12 so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the LORD your God, which the LORD your God is making with you today,

13 that he may establish you today as his people, and that he may be your God, as he promised you, and as he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

14 It is not with you alone that I am making this sworn covenant,

15 but with whoever is standing here with us today before the LORD our God, and with whoever is not here with us today.

16 You know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the midst of the nations through which you passed.

17 And you have seen their detestable things, their idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold, which were among them.

18 Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the LORD our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit,
 19 one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.' This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike.
 20 The LORD will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the LORD and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book will settle upon him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.
 21 And the LORD will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for calamity, in accordance with all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.
 22 And the next generation, your children who rise up after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, will say, when they see the afflictions of that land and the sicknesses with which the LORD has made it sick--
 23 the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath--
 24 all the nations will say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?'
 25 Then people will say, 'It is because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt,
 26 and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them.
 27 Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this book,
 28 and the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.'
 29 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Hebrews 4:1-11 ESV

1 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.
 2 For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.
 3 For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest,'" although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.
 4 For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works."
 5 And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest."
 6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience,
 7 again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."
 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on.
 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,
 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.
 11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.