

Peace - the sum of the whole.

Luke 2:25-35

Shalom -> complete / whole / well-being

- Restoring to wholeness that which is broken.
- At harmony with God.

Isaiah 9:5-7 For every trampling boot of battle and the bloodied garments of war will be burned as fuel for the fire.

6 For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

7 The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever.

vs. 25, consolation -> hope of deliverance for the nation.

vs. 27, Jesus is being brought to the temple for dedication.

Instead, God through Simeon declares, This is Jesus the Messiah.

The DNA of a life of Peace

vs. 29-30

Encountering Jesus

Living and speaking gratitude (wholeness)

Recognizing the Triune God as king (master / servant)

I have fulfilled my call.

Embracing Salvation - my eyes have seen

- Peace - knowing God is at work fulfilling his promises (salvation / restoration).
- Rest - we are able to rest because of our knowledge of Jesus. Knowledge is experiential wholeness / completeness because of Jesus.

vs. 31-32

Isaiah 60:1-3 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines over you. **2** For look, darkness will cover the earth, and total darkness the peoples; but the Lord will shine over you, and his glory will appear over you.

3 Nations will come to your light, and kings to your shining brightness.

Illuminating life - grace-filled people, good news people, faith people

vs. 34-35, Many will reject Jesus as Peace.

Isaiah 8:14-15 He will be a sanctuary; but for the two houses of Israel, he will be a stone to stumble over and a rock to trip over, and a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. **15** Many will stumble over these; they will fall and be broken; they will be snared and captured.

Romans 9:33 Paul quotes this passage in Isaiah

Psalms 118:22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Belief increases faith which increases hope which quiets the noise and produces peace.

You can want and fight for peace (justice) in our very broken world, but you will constantly hit a dead end if you first don't find peace with Jesus.

Peace starts personally and is then cultivated communally resulting in proclamation (living and announcing the good news).

Shalom -> Wholeness

- A perfect life (everything all put together) is not a display of peace.
- The glorious display of a life filled with peace comes from those who are broken (fractured) because it isn't circumstances that creates peace, it is Jesus!

Peace is not health, safety, comfort, or happiness. Exasperated we often shout, “just give me some peace and quiet”.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. His peace is

Risky - it is a declaration of “I can’t”.

Bold - approaching Jesus in our pain.

Not instinctive (natural) - it requires humility, faith, release of control

Dependent on the good shepherd - Jesus is our Peace.

Micah 5:4-5 He will stand and shepherd them in the strength of the Lord, in the majestic name of the Lord his God. They will live securely, for then his greatness will extend to the ends of the earth.

5 He will be their peace.

Isaiah 32:15-18 until the Spirit[a] from on high is poured out on us. Then the desert will become an orchard, and the orchard will seem like a forest. **16** Then justice will inhabit the wilderness, and righteousness will dwell in the orchard.

17 The result of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quiet confidence forever. **18** Then my people will dwell in a peaceful place, in safe and secure dwellings.

Practices:

In the busyness of the week leading up to Christmas, set aside at least 30 minutes to do something quiet that brings you peace — take a nap, go on a walk, listen to music, paint — simply be in peace with Jesus.

Sit or kneel before God with open hands, surrender your circumstances, and ask him to help you understand and experience peace.

As you engage with your coworkers, friends, and family this week practice being a person of peace in their midst.

Pick one passage about peace from today’s message and pray it for yourself and our community every day this week.