

# Peace In A Hostile World

## Anthony Kim

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Good evening everyone. We'll go ahead and get started for this evening's study. So, if you will, let's go to the Lord in prayer.

Father, thank you for this opportunity to come this evening to be under your word. Help me Lord to look to you for strength, wisdom and guidance and clarity and boldness of preaching your word. And I pray father that you would bless the hearers that you would give them the grace of concentration and help them to take in the word of God with understanding from your spirit's guidance. Lord blessed this end in Jesus name. Amen.

Well, if you will turn with me to Luke chapter 10, we'll continue our study for discipleship. And we're going to be in verse five, starting in verse five this evening.

Going to go ahead and read verses five and six and then I will explain these passages. Beginning at verse five.

And into whatsoever house you enter, first say, "Peace be to this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it. If not, it shall turn to you again."

Here we see that the Lord Jesus prioritizes peace to the disciples that were appointed and sent out. Their mission was to go ahead of him in every town and place he was about to visit. We saw that in verse one. And then in verse three, he said, "You're going to be ministering as lambs among wolves." And then continuing verse 9, the emphasis is on the kingdom of God has come near. So there's significance to this passage, what comes before and what comes after.

But the first thing that the Lord Jesus Christ instructs his disciples is to enter any home with the blessing of peace. We see that in verses 5 and six. Although just kind of contrasting this text with what has been already prophesied and that's Isaiah 9:6, a very familiar verse that he's called the prince of peace as the Lord Jesus Christ. And this is again something that Apostle Luke echoes over and over again. We see this in Luke chapter 2 in verse 14. And this is a very familiar verse. We often hear in Christmas, but I'll read it just briefly here. It says, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men and to all." Right? So that's Luke 2:14.

And then we see that the secondary concern after the understanding of peace and the importance of it, we see that he wants them to announce the kingdom of God the very king of the kingdom of God and that's the lord Jesus Christ. And we see this word peace develop throughout the New Testament. Christ's message was very common that apostle Paul for example would greet grace and peace be to you in his introductory remarks in his letter. So this is throughout New Testament. And we see the consistency in that. And also in Ephesians 6:15, I had preached a

sermon on the armor of God. One of the pieces was the expression the gospel of peace, right? Shod with the feet, the gospel of peace. So again, just continue to see the theme of peace throughout scripture. And a very noteworthy passage is Romans 5:1 saying having justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

So this simple house greeting if you look into it it goes beyond just a simple greeting. It's the core reality of salvation this word peace. And in verse six, we see that this word son of peace, this is identifying to us as a reader of this and understanding what we're supposed to look for in a person is this identity of peace. Someone whose hearts are prepared to receive the message of the kingdom and this requires spiritual discernment and observation. So this is the idea is disciples go and they would look for the son of peace so are there some markers in people that you have observed in evangelism or you've seen some identifying characteristics of peace in their attitude because that's what they were sent out from the Lord Jesus Christ to identify. Do you see some resemblance of peace in these people that you're witnessing to? And just as a meaning of son of peace, the term son of it's a very common Hebrew idiom and it just simply signifies character identity of a person. That's what it means.

And then we get the word peace from the Greek word as well and it conveys harmony with God. Reconciliation again a running theme through scripture on the importance of having peace with God. Now when you have this combined phrase with son of peace it's demonstrated in this way that there is a readiness a readiness to be eager to receive the sharing of the gospel. Is that evident in the people that you speak with? Is there some signs of that? And we pray for that, right? We pray that God will open the door. God will open the heart right that we witness to. And this is the idea is this is one of the first thing that you should identify in a person does this person's sense that he needs peace number one and if he has does he have some markers of peace within him and some what are some core things that we should look at and be consistent on and the idea is peace in the way Jesus says it's like not of this world. Right? He said that the peace that I offer is not like this world. Meaning that in this world peace in the temporal sense is fluctuating. It goes up and down. And so the message of the gospel is this peace with God that is it has eternal weight in it. Meaning that it will as soon as you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ that peace begins and it will go on for eternity and there is no ups and downs and that's why Jesus thrust with this this is what you need to share and this is what you need to identify primarily in people because everyone wants peace right everyone wants that God has designed us for wanting peace so we can't go wrong this is just the way God designed it and so Jesus says the First thing you do, this is what you do. You look for the son of peace.

Now there's going to be this there's going to be with that if that person it does not have markers of peace, you'll sense conflict, right? You'll sense that that person's not resolved. There's disagreements. Oh, I don't need to be reconciled. One person may say or yeah, I found true peace and that person is all over the place in their lives. So it hits the core area where the gospel can really shed light on this the on the person's situation. You also see if the person's open or not or if they're closed with that simple gesture of a peace. It also offers an opening for a deeper conversation. What is this peace that you're speaking of? Right? It's not something that you just talk lightly of. Like this peace is a big deal to be reconciled with God. Who is God? God judged sin. He is holy. He is pure. He's eternal. Right? It opens up a whole deep conversation with the

person with that simple gesture of looking for peace. And so what Jesus is saying here is essential to our evangelism. And we see it with his instructions to the disciples.

Some more things on this. The dialogue is not worth noting here is a person that's has peace naturally has a calm disposition. Meaning there could be all sorts of things going on in this person's life and just deeply settled in that person. There's just this calmness that external situations no matter how challenging they may be and difficult as they may be there is this sense of calmness in the inner man right we know that as believers amen we know that it doesn't matter how bad external situation is we have peace with God and that makes all the difference in the world and again you can share that like you can share what's going on in your life of course you got to build rapport and everything but eventually you get to share your own testimony your own life and you give an opportunity for to show what the gospel does in not just in the sense of our spiritual condition but also physically there's this calmness about us. Amen.

And so this is the posture again that peace brings. Colossians 3:15 says this, "Let this peace rule in your hearts." Right? Peace rules us and not in the negative sense. It's a positive sense. Right? God is a good God. He rules with peace and he wants us to be ruled in our hearts with that kind of peace in Colossians 3:15. So it governs our own hearts with this peace.

Luke 10:6 going back to it. It says there that it's freely given this peace. You can share with everyone. So when Jesus is saying this, every town, every place you go, you're just consistent with this message. It's freely given and offered. But we see here in verse six that it shall turn to you again. This expression it says if not, it means that it will return to you. Meaning that no matter what someone tells you that and they reject that peace which ultimately the gospel gives to us it should never put into our hearts a root of bitterness. We shouldn't never make it personal like this. This is again between the person and the Lord ultimately it's not between us. We are simply messengers. We are ambassadors for Christ, right? And so, it protects the disciples. This is the message you're sharing. You're saying this is what the Lord offers with you and God. And so it's between you and God. And it takes you away from it. It leaves the personal part off of the table as it were. And it allows that freedom to not let a root of bitterness enter in because there's nothing personal about it. It's again the gospel. Amen. And so it helps us to be ready then to be always ready because you won't stumble that way. You won't fall. You'll be able to continue going without relenting. And that's why the feet readiness of the gospel of peace in Ephesians 6:15. When you have that inner disposition that it's between the Lord and them you can just keep going and you'll never be affected if you have that heart posture.

So ultimately, let the Holy Spirit reveal to you the son of peace when you go out to evangelism and look for these characteristics because there are signs that God is working in that person and they're getting a taste of it and again it's not full until they trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, right? Until they believe in him know that he is the one that ultimately pays for our sins and wrath of God is taken away and the full measure of the gospel. The fruit of it is peace, right? But this is very important to start this way out and continue it to the very end when ultimately the person believes in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's look at verses seven and nine. Verses seven and nine says this. And in the same house remain eating and drinking such things as they give. For the labor is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. Verse eight. And into whatsoever city ye enter and they receive you. Eat

such things as are set before you. Verse nine. And heal the sick that are therein and say unto them, the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

I want to take us back to this understanding of what these passages mean. So in first century Galilee villages often would it be ingrained in them to show hospitality because this is referring to Leviticus 19:34. There was no such thing as hotels like we have today, right? There were no hotels, no motel, right? The way you would whenever you go and travel you will have to stay at someone's house and that was just a norm. We don't live in that context today, right? We can go to Airbnb. If we're traveling, we can stay in a hotel, right? Staying at someone's house is like the last option to them. There was no option. That was the option. And so if you understand that there were some nuances to this and I want to share those nuances.

So, when that was designed that way, that was, you know, the Jewish culture knew that hospitality was part of the culture. People take advantage of that situation. And let me tell you people that traveled during that time Jesus was just positioning the disciples with them like when you travel do this but know that there are people out there taking advantage of people and I don't want you to do that and he gives us what to do to not follow that example. So let me just kind of share with you a little bit more and I'll go back to the text and you'll understand what after I explain this further what I'm getting to.

So there was a lot of things that people take advantage of and it is this is that they would these people will go into the home and they will want their own accommodation. They will say I want this I want this kind of bed. I want this kind of food. And because the Jewish culture was hospital, they will do that. It was just a way that the culture was and people took advantage of that hospitality. And so Jesus is saying don't do that. Do not act like those people that are traveling around and doing this type of attitude.

And so with that understanding, now let me read the verse again in verse 7. It says and the same house remain eating and drinking such things as they give. So there it is like whatever that household offers, accept it. Don't ask for better food or I want this in my food. Because that's what the people in those days took advantage of. And he's saying don't do that. Just eat what you receive, right? We hear that all the time right at the table. If you have good parents, if you're a good parent, you say eat what is served before you. But here it is. This is the text that to go to. This is the verse. And it's such a good reminder for us. Amen. Like we should never think about preferences over people. That's how I remember this verse. It is it's not about preference. It's about the people that you are ministering. That's more important than preference. And we can live where we want. We can live at the basic things in that sense. And we don't dilute the mission the gospel mission and the way we are to not be self-serving but to serve instead. Amen. Help out. Be considerate in the place you are visiting.

Other things here it mentions here about the passage continuing in verse 7 for the labor is worthy of his hire. This this is simply an expression that yes the gospel message is free. I often say that pastor Waj has said that as well, but the resources that it takes resources and so the Lord Jesus says this like you will receive your wages through your ministry. And so this is a common thing people will help support you again if this is a home that's receiving you in this context they will give you the resources to continue to serve. They have accepted it and they will provide. It's the very thing that we do as a church, don't we? We offer the gospel freely. It is but we need the

resources to get the message across whether locally or across the world. And we see this passage in 1 Timothy 5:18 the workers worthy of his wages speaking about preachers. And so it's consistent with New Testament verses.

So continuing in this verse go not from house to house this is important going back to the context of taking advantage of people. So these traveling folks would go from house to house taking advantage of situations and they never really care about people. They just care about the accommodation, the hospitality. And so they would just basically feed off of that. And so what Jesus is saying, don't do that. Stay in that home. Get to know them. Get to know the family. Show up consistently over and over and over again. Let build that trust. It takes time. He's setting the stage for what evangelism looks like. And it's a timeless truth, isn't it? One of our brothers goes to Myrtle Avenue. He's consistently staying in that place. Being visible to that community. It's a very similar concept. People will know you. Oh, that house that preacher or that missionary or in this context the disciples it's such a welcoming environment. They're so their message is so good and they're not taking advantage of people like others do because it was very common during that time. So there was it was known this kind of expression of the gospel and how it looks like day-to-day even in the home context. It was how it is and is to this very day, right? We are to stay consistent. And we do that in evangelism. We go to the same neighboring blocks right on Saturdays and we visit the same homes. That's a good thing. Of course, we want more than that. Would love for them to welcome us to their home and share a meal together. And so of course it's difficult because that's not our context today, is it? It's much more there's more pre-evangelism work that needs to be done, but in this day it was very common. They just welcome you into the house. It was not like a big deal today. So God help us on how to do that work before that before doing this kind of work. And I am praying about this and I am enthusiastic that this can happen. And just pray that in God's timing that we will be able to do this as a church and actually follow what the word of God says. Amen.

And just an example Acts 16:15 Paul and Silas illustrates this really well. They actually stayed in Lydia's home in Philippi. And you know she was the businesswoman, right? And she was able to accommodate Paul and Silas and that was their where they did most of their ministry was in Lydia's home the church in Philippi. It's quite amazing thing what happens when ministry is done effectively. It's a beautiful thing. I talked with a missionary this week that we support and from India and the way that they do things they don't go to the city to do evangelism because they have laws prohibiting building church buildings. So what they do is well I can't go there. So they go to villages and what they do is in the homes they're all first floor and mainly for first floor these homes and they don't need to get a permit. They can build another floor on top of it and then that's where they would have church. And so he would plant churches this way. He'll have home Bible studies in the home and then if they're up for it, he'll work with them and build the second floor and that's where they will gather as a church. And he'll just do that over and over again in this village. That's just wisdom, isn't it? It's like, okay, the doors closed here, but here's a door open and God is opening opportunities after opportunities. So that's the kind of wisdom I am praying for for us in our context. How can we do this effectively just as it has been done here in this text in Acts and the mission I spoke with and how about here how can it be done so that's more on that.

Another thing very not popular but very important verse 1 Corinthians 9:22-23 apostle Paul said I have become all things to all men so that all possible means I might save some. So again going back to the context it's not my personal preference. How can I know the context that I'm in. In that context he knew the Jews really well. He also knew the Romans really well. He was a citizen of the Romans, right? What about us? Right. I'm Korean. I should get to know my culture. If you're a different ethnic American, you should know your culture and then get to know other cultures really well. This is what this text means. You get to know your own culture first of all as Apostle Paul. He was a Jew and then he understood the Romans and he would just go from each place to each place and he would just absorb himself in that culture and that's how he was most effective. It's not like oh my culture is this and I don't do what you do and you know it's not that. It's how can I mobilize myself more effectively. And the first thing is get to know the culture. And I would like us to do some kind of study on that and really walk us through that process of do you really know your culture well and then do you know other people's culture well and that will be a really wild study for all of us as a church.

Let's go to verses 10 and 12.

But into whatsoever city ye enter and they receive you not go your ways out into the street of the same and say even the very dust of your city which cleaveth on us we do wipe off against you notwithstanding be ye sure of this that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you and then verse 12 but I say unto you that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for that city.

Well, this is very contrasting verse here. Let me just kind of go back to verse 9. You see there the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you, right? And then you see that again in verse 11, the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. You see that repetition? Very important. And I'll share what that means, but just know I'm going to go there and why he says this twice. But I want to get into verse 10 and share some comments on this. So, how do you respond to someone who rejects the gospel? Because there were towns that they went into, not all of them received the gospel. And so he was preparing them for how to respond when people reject you and with the message of the gospel. And how to do it respectfully. We're going to see this in the text. But two common truths, two common truths, essential truths. Number one, our responsibility is limited. We are not responsible for the person's unbelief. We're not. Number two, God's kingdom prevails. God's kingdom advances regardless of those who accept it or reject it. God's kingdom is advancing. We know that in first John where it says that the kingdom of God is advancing, right? And those who are doing the will of God shall live forever, right? So the idea is God is pushing out the world and his advance is coming and so we have to be on his side and we are. Praise God, right? We are on his side and we are part of that advancement and whether people accept or reject it, that's not up to us. Results are on the Lord. And so we must always understand that.

So let's talk about this shaking off the dust expression. In the ancient world going back, this would be a public signal of a clean break. Clean break as dust symbolize fellowship. Jesus uses a simple but very dramatic act to illustrate the correct way to withdraw. Acts 13:50-51 Paul and Barnabas shook the dust off their feet in Antioch before moving to Iconium. So this is not only consistent here but in the book of Acts. So of course what does this expression mean to us? Here are some things that are fundamental is this. We are to begin with a conversation with peace continue on consistency showing up not taking advantage of people and then I forgot to also

mention heal the sick in that time God the Lord Jesus Christ authorized that and in James 5:15 it says that the elders to help with healing the sick and anointing oil. But ultimately the result we leave the results to God. It's the same idea. So I wanted to add that because I forgot to mention that. But let's go back to here why the kingdom of God is mentioned twice. It's to emphasize the importance the urgency with their message and our message. Look, eternal consequences will happen if you stay in unbelief. And so that is emphasized. There is eternity before you. The kingdom of God is a kingdom that is eternal. It's not like this world. It's not like one nation falling and one nation rising. No, God's kingdom is forever. And so this is an emphasis we need to put on it. And it takes away the temporal world and sets the stage for this message has eternal consequences and it's positive if you believe in it but it is negative if you don't. And those are the two consequences that we have to always keep it for us to see that eternity is before us and before them.

And then how do we respectfully withdraw again with that expression of shaking off the dust off of our feet? And it's this idea of disengaging respectfully. Notice that it's not an argument to withdraw. It's this expression, okay, we're done. And it's symbolic. It's not saying, okay, you don't agree with me, then let's fight about it. It's not that. It's not done with argument or resentment. Again, no root of bitterness. It's not personal. It's between them and the Lord. And that's how we are to respectfully disengage with individuals respectfully. And in our day, it's a simple handshake. Thank you for your time. Or just simply saying thank you for your time. Because back in those days, when you dust a shoe up off the feet, everyone knew what that meant. It was a common colloquial. People understood what that meant. And so today it's thank you and God bless you of some sort like that. And then we trust in God's judgment. We trust in God's judgment. We leave the results again entirely with God because judgment ultimately belongs to him alone. Right? And the next thing is it guards our heart when we state things that judgment belongs to God. It allows for the rejection not to allow us to be hardened by what we hear. Ultimately they're not hardened because of us. They're hardened because of the message. The message, the gospel message.

Another thing we can do in this response is we pray for them. We can pray for them and continue to pray for them. If there's if this individual is someone you know but they keep rejecting it but they are still showing up we continue to pray that helps resist again the root of bitterness and we also continue to ask God to soften their hearts from their heart and it's ultimately in his timing. It's ultimately in his timing and then by doing this clean withdrawal it maintains the message. We don't go okay let's talk about it some more. Let's make this gospel watered down. No, you make the gospel clear and then that's it. You cannot add anything else to it. Amen. You don't take out anything from it. You don't try to gain acceptance. Most people have fallen prey in this because they try to persuade people, okay, let's make this gospel your gospel. And we don't do that as true followers of Christ. We make the gospel clear. It's the death, burial, resurrection of Christ. Nothing in us that we do, but it's what God does in us. Before the foundation of the world, he saved us. He's chosen us. We were elect before the foundation of the world. And you maintain that message. And that's another way to have a clean cut. I'm not going to budge on this. And that keeps our public witness light and salt to the hostile world that we are involved in. And we continue to share the serious consequence of the finality of what they're saying. Hopefully it's not their final say when you talk with them. Hopefully God works in their heart and their hearts

change and what they say changes. But we realize that there is a finality in our witness. There will be a final consequence whether positive or negative.

Something to be encouraged by. You know, Jesus had many followers no longer follow with him that we see that in John 6:66. So even someone that has followed you possibly as a disciple of Christ and then they fell away. Well, Jesus had many of them, many false disciples. So don't be discouraged. Jesus had the same group of people around him. So it's again not personal. This is the gospel message that they are refusing and rejecting because we know that Jesus continued to press on and to the cross. And so our responsibility sharing the gospel is clear even when it's difficult even when people may leave and forsake the Lord Jesus Christ because they were not truly of him. Again we don't we're not responsible for the outcome but for the message.

So, more on this verse 12, and this is where we're going to end tonight. The gravity of refusal. The gravity of refusal. Verse 12, it presents a sobering contrast here that those who embrace Christ's message find peace. We see that in verses five and six. While those who reject it faces a judgment more severe than upon Sodom. Verse 12. And this simply underscores the serious implications of rejecting Christ today as a town refused his messengers is in fact refusing him. Continue to emphasize this. It's refusing Christ.

And so what are some things that will help us to continue on in our ministry of witnessing to the lost world of the Lord Jesus Christ. One thing is to note just going back to this text that Sodom was judged without the presence of the incarnate son of God. That's number one. They didn't hear the gospel proclamation. That's why he says you will be judged greater because they didn't have Jesus Christ there in person. They didn't get to hear the gospel. So that's number one. And we're going to see contrasting with Chorazin and Bethsaida and Capernaum and verses 13 and 15. So we're not just hanging here with Sodom. We're going to see others towns and because he wants to show just the greater the greater the revelation meaning the more we understand and hear the gospel the greater the responsibility. We see this in Hebrews 10:29 that you are trampling on your feet on the blood of Christ in Hebrews 10:29. It is serious. And so he says this this is to them that this is a future revelation for you and so then it's a greater responsibility those to those that hear it. So if it is there in that context it is still the same today that same weight carries with us our message. So as messengers we have this great weight upon us that we're sharing with people. Always never forget that how amazing our message is and how great that responsibility is.

And so, God's patience is not limitless. That's another way we can look at this text. Sodom's judgment came and it came swiftly. And in Genesis 18:20-21 it says there that God there was this limit of how much sin they were going to do, and they reached that limit, and that's why judgment fell on them. It wasn't all just a little sin and then God just sent his wrath. Like there was momentum building with their sin. It just got worse and worse and it was no repentance. No repentance. No repentance from their sin. And it reached the limits and that's when God sent his judgment. And at that point it was swift, right? We see that in the text when you go there in Genesis 18:20 and 21. And likewise the same persistent unbelief will eventually face judgment. And we see that in Romans 2:5 and 6. I don't have time to go into that tonight. But it was the same just unbelief. No repentance. No repentance. No repentance. So yes, this is weighty and it ends on a weighty point here.

But with that I do want to end in a positive place for us as the messengers of the gospel of Christ. It is this. Keep the urgency of eternity in view when sharing the gospel the Lord Jesus Christ. This is imperative imperative. Never make light the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Always make sure never make it mundane. Pray for that. Never make it watered down. Ask the Lord to give you boldness and full of the Holy Spirit and make sure that you do it in love and truth with truth and love and eternity in your view because it is the kingdom of God is near. That emphasis is twice here in these passages.

Next, intercede for the cities and communities. Let's start praying for the cities that I would love for us to reach, not just in Monrovia, but I'm talking about the surrounding communities that we're going to reach. Lord willing, I am working on it. God has been giving me the wisdom to map out and I'm going to be working with the deacons on this and present it to everyone. But let's start praying now. Amen. Let's start praying for the cities and communities now. And I want us to really do that because that's the part that we need help with. We need the power resting upon us. Because it is going to require us to not have as much time as we used to. Not as much energy towards things that we want to do and more time and energy on what is pleasing to God, right? Isn't that what we want? Isn't that what we want to do with our time and our resources that it's more towards the things of God than us? So we just got to realize the reality of it and ask God to help you with it. I'm going to be asking help for myself and everyone.

And again remember this that God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that his desire is repentance. That's Ezekiel 33:11. Let's pray like that. And that people will repent when we share the gospel with people and that God will do a mighty work in this city and the cities around us. Amen.

All right, let's pray.

Father, such a weighty words from the Lord Jesus Christ rest upon us in these passages that we went over. I just pray Lord that you would grant to us these words and grafted into our hearts. Show us the seriousness of the message that we carry. The eternal consequences, the positive and the negative of it of those who believe or do not believe. Help us to not take it personally that ultimately it's between the individual and you father. Help us in all these areas, Lord, that we constantly need to be reminded so that we can be used mightily for you, Lord. And so help us Lord as we navigate during this year Lord to make a greater impact for the cause of Christ within this community and the surrounding communities that Lord that you would open up doors for us Lord. Help us to pray now as we transition and grant us your Holy Spirit. Give us a boldness in our prayers and help us to rely upon your timing and that we will please you father and we ask all these things in Jesus name. Amen.