

“Man of Peace”

Summary

This message centers on Jesus as the ultimate man of peace, drawing from Mark 4:35-41 where Jesus calms the storm with two simple words: 'Peace, be still.' We explore how Jesus consistently brought peace into every situation He entered—from His birth announcement of 'peace on earth' to His resurrection appearance where His first words were 'peace be with you.' The sermon challenges us to recognize that peace isn't just a nice feeling but our rightful inheritance as children of God. Like the disciples in the boat who questioned whether Jesus cared as the storm raged around them, we often allow circumstances—health struggles, family conflicts, financial pressures, fear of the unknown—to steal what rightfully belongs to us. The message provides practical instruction from Philippians 4, reminding us to rejoice always, bring everything to God with thanksgiving, and deliberately focus our thoughts on what is true, honorable, pure, and lovely. This isn't about denying reality but about choosing to dwell on God's goodness rather than our problems. When we carry His peace, we become agents of change in chaotic situations, witnesses to a watching world that handles life differently because of who lives within us.

Small Group Study Guide – Man of Peace

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by inviting God's presence and asking Him to help you understand and apply His peace in your daily lives.

Icebreaker Question

Share a time when you experienced unexpected peace in the middle of a difficult situation. What made that moment memorable?

Key Scripture

Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus calms the storm

Supporting Passages:

- Luke 2:14 - Peace announced at Jesus' birth
- Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the peacemakers
- John 14:26-27 - Jesus leaves His peace
- Philippians 4:4-9 - Instructions for maintaining peace

Main Takeaways

1. Jesus Is the Prince of Peace

From His birth announcement to His resurrection appearance, Jesus consistently brought peace to every situation He entered.

2. Peace Is Our Right as God's Children

Peace isn't something we hope for—it's something we already possess through Christ. The enemy tries to *steal* what is rightfully ours.

3. Peace Requires Active Fighting

We must choose to guard our peace daily through prayer, thanksgiving, and fixing our minds on what is true, honorable, and praiseworthy.

4. We Are Called to Be Peacemakers

As children of God, we carry His peace into chaotic situations, becoming agents of change in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Sermon

1. Pastor Eric mentioned that the disciples thought Jesus didn't care when He was sleeping in the storm. When have you felt like God wasn't present or didn't care about your situation? How did that resolve?
2. Read Philippians 4:4-9 together. What specific instructions does Paul give for maintaining peace? Which one is most challenging for you personally?
3. The sermon emphasized that Jesus brought peace, not the warrior the people expected. How does Jesus' approach to peace differ from the world's approach to solving problems?

Going Deeper

4. Pastor Eric shared about shame trying to steal peace. How does shame from our past prevent us from walking in the peace God offers? What does it look like to "go in peace" as Jesus told the woman in Luke 7:50?
5. "What manner of man is this that even the wind and the sea obey him?" How does recognizing Jesus' authority help us maintain peace when circumstances feel out of control?
6. Pastor Eric mentioned that the enemy attacks us where we're gifted. Why would the enemy want to steal our peace specifically? How does losing our peace affect our ability to minister to others?

Personal Application

7. The sermon talked about "flipping switches" when we leave church versus being at home or work. Where do you find it hardest to maintain peace—at home, at work, in relationships, or somewhere else? Why?
8. Think about the "small things" that steal your peace (like the pink stain on the countertop example). What are your common peace-stealers? How can you respond differently when they happen?
9. "Witnessing is living in front of people and them seeing that you handle things differently." Who in your life is watching how you respond to difficulties? How might your peace (or lack of it) be a testimony?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE area where you need to fight for peace:

- **Health concerns** (yours or a loved one's)
- **Financial stress**
- **Relationship conflict**
- **Work pressures**
- **Fear of the unknown**
- **Shame from the past**
- **Parenting challenges**

Daily Practice:

1. **Morning:** Pray Philippians 4:6-7, specifically bringing this concern to God with thanksgiving

2. **Throughout the day:** When anxiety comes, redirect your thoughts to what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable (Philippians 4:8)
3. **Evening:** Journal one way you saw God's peace at work, even if the circumstances didn't change

Group Accountability

Pair up with another group member this week:

- Share your specific area where you need peace
- Text each other Philippians 4:6-7 as a reminder
- Check in mid-week to encourage one another

Reflection Exercise

Complete this sentence and share with the group:

"If I truly believed that peace is my right as God's child, I would stop _____ and start _____."

Prayer Focus

Pray Together For:

1. **Revelation** - That each person would truly understand peace is their right, not just a hope
2. **Deliverance** - From shame, fear, and anxiety that steals peace
3. **Strength** - To be peacemakers in chaotic situations
4. **Testimony** - That others would see Christ's peace in how we handle difficulties

Individual Prayer Needs

Take time to share and pray for specific situations where group members need God's peace

Looking Ahead

Before Next Week:

- Read John 14:27 daily

- Practice the daily peace exercise above
- Be prepared to share one "peace testimony" from your week

Memory Verse: *"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."* - John 14:27

Closing Thought

Jesus didn't just bring peace to situations—He IS peace. When we carry His presence, we carry peace into every storm we encounter. The question isn't whether we have peace available to us, but whether we'll fight to maintain it and offer it to others.

Final Prayer: Ask God to help each person walk as a peacemaker this week, representing Jesus well in every situation they face.

Main Points – Man of Peace

Title: Jesus, The Man of Peace: Carrying His Presence Into Every Situation

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores Jesus as the Man of peace who transformed every situation He entered. Drawing from Mark 4:35-41 where Jesus calms the storm, the message emphasizes that peace is our birthright as believers and something we must fight to maintain. The sermon challenges the congregation to recognize how easily peace can be stolen through daily circumstances—health struggles, family conflicts, fear of the unknown, and past shame. Yet through Jesus, believers are called to be agents of change who carry His peace into turbulent situations. The message emphasizes that true witnessing is living differently in front of others, demonstrating "crazy peace" that surpasses understanding even in difficult circumstances. The sermon concludes with practical instructions from Philippians 4 on maintaining peace through rejoicing, prayer, thanksgiving, and dwelling on things that are pure, lovely, and commendable.

Key Points:

- Jesus brought peace from His birth announcement through His resurrection and continues to offer it today
- Peace is a birthright for believers that must be actively fought for and protected
- The enemy targets our peace through everyday circumstances, health issues, shame from the past, and fear of the unknown
- Shame tries to disqualify us from receiving and giving peace to others
- We are called to be peacemakers and agents of change in situations of turmoil
- True witnessing happens when others see us handle difficulties differently because of God's peace
- Maintaining peace requires intentional practices: rejoicing, prayer with thanksgiving, and focusing thoughts on what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable
- God desires relationship with us and wants us to bring even small concerns to Him
- Peace allows us to enjoy our relationship with God and effectively minister to others

Scripture Reference:

- Mark 4:35-41 (Jesus calms the storm)
- Luke 2:14 (Angels announce peace at Jesus' birth)
- Matthew 5:9 (Blessed are the peacemakers)
- Luke 7:50 (Woman with alabaster box - "Go in peace")
- Luke 8:46-48 (Woman with issue of blood - "Go in peace")
- Luke 24:36 (Jesus appears to disciples after resurrection)
- John 14:26-27 (Jesus promises the Holy Spirit and His peace)
- Philippians 4:4-9 (Instructions for maintaining peace)

Discussion Questions – Man of Peace

How do you respond when you feel like Jesus is 'asleep' during the storms in your life, and what helps you remember that He is still present and in control?

In what ways does shame from your past try to steal your peace, and how can you practically apply Jesus' words to 'go in peace' to overcome those feelings?

The sermon mentions that the enemy attacks us in areas where we're gifted - what specific giftings or callings in your life do you think the enemy tries to bind up, and how can you fight against that?

How do you balance praying for healing or change while maintaining peace when you don't see immediate results, especially regarding loved ones who are struggling?

What does it mean to you that Jesus offers peace 'not as the world gives,' and how is that different from temporary sources of comfort or security you might be tempted to rely on?

According to Philippians 4:8, we're told to think on things that are pure, lovely, and commendable - what practical steps can you take to redirect your thoughts when dwelling on hurts or anxieties?

How can you be an 'agent of change' who brings peace into situations of conflict or turmoil, rather than avoiding confrontation or adding to the drama?

The sermon suggests that witnessing is about living differently in front of people rather than just verbal evangelism - what specific ways do people around you see you handle difficulties differently because of your faith?

When you experience small daily frustrations (like the pink stain on the countertop), how can you use those moments as opportunities to practice maintaining God's peace rather than letting it be stolen?

How does understanding that peace is your 'right to have' as a child of God change the way you fight for it when circumstances threaten to overwhelm you?

Scriptures – Man of Peace

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **Mark 4:35-41** - The calming of the storm (main passage)
2. **Luke 2:14** - Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth
3. **Matthew 5:9** - Blessed are the peacemakers (from Sermon on the Mount)
4. **Luke 7:50** - Woman with alabaster box - "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace"
5. **Luke 8:46-48** - Woman with issue of blood
6. **Luke 24:36** - Jesus appears to disciples after resurrection, says "Peace"
7. **John 14:26-27** - Jesus promises the Holy Spirit and His peace
8. **Philippians 4:4-9** - Instructions on maintaining peace through prayer and right thinking

Alluded to but Not Explicitly Cited:

9. **Matthew 5:1-12** - The Sermon on the Mount (Beatitudes)
10. **James 1:19** - "Quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger"

Devotional – Man of Peace

Day 1: The Peace Jesus Offers

Reading: John 14:25-27

Devotional: Jesus promises a peace that differs fundamentally from what the world offers. Worldly peace depends on circumstances—financial security, comfortable relationships, favorable health. But Jesus' peace transcends our situations. As Jesus prepared to leave His disciples, He didn't promise them easy lives. Instead, He offered His very own peace—a supernatural calm that defies logic. This peace doesn't mean the absence of storms, but the presence of Jesus in the storm. Today, identify one area where you're seeking worldly peace instead of Christ's peace. Surrender it to Him. His peace guards your heart even when circumstances remain unchanged. Let not your heart be troubled.

Day 2: Peace in the Storm

Reading: Mark 4:35-41

Devotional: The disciples' fear in the storm reveals our own tendency to question God's presence during trials. "Do you not care?" they cried. How often do we echo this question? Yet Jesus was always present, even while sleeping. His peace wasn't disturbed by the chaos around Him. When He spoke, "Peace, be still," creation obeyed. The same authority that calmed the sea lives within you through the Holy Spirit. Your storms—health crises, relational conflicts, financial pressures—don't intimidate Him. Today, instead of focusing on the size of your storm, remember the size of your Savior. Speak His peace over your circumstances. What manner of man is this? The One who gives you His peace.

Day 3: Fighting for Peace

Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

Devotional: Peace isn't passive; it requires intentional pursuit. Paul provides clear instructions: rejoice always, pray with thanksgiving, guard your thoughts. Notice the active verbs—these are choices we make moment by moment. The enemy wants to steal your peace through worry, shame, and fear. But peace is your inheritance, worth fighting for. What you dwell on determines your peace level. When you focus on past failures, present troubles, or future uncertainties, anxiety grows. Instead, deliberately think on what is true, honorable, just, pure, and lovely. This isn't denial—it's choosing faith over fear. Practice this today: when anxious thoughts arise, immediately replace them with thanksgiving and truth. The God of peace will be with you.

Day 4: From Shame to Peace

Reading: Luke 7:36-50

Devotional: The woman with the alabaster box carried a shameful past that everyone knew. Yet she found peace at Jesus' feet while religious people judged her. Jesus saw her present faith, not her past failures. He declared, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." The enemy uses shame to bind us, keeping us from the freedom Christ purchased. He knows your gifting and attacks you there, hoping to disqualify you from your calling. But shame has no power when you encounter Jesus' love. His grace delivers you in a moment for a lifetime. Today, identify any shame you're carrying. Bring it to Jesus. Receive His declaration over you: "Go in peace." You are forgiven, loved, and free to pour out to others what you've received.

Day 5: Agents of Peace

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Devotional: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." This isn't just a nice saying—it's your identity and calling. As God's children, we carry His peace into chaotic situations. When you enter a room filled with conflict, anxiety, or fear, you bring the Prince of Peace with you. This doesn't mean avoiding difficult conversations or pretending problems don't exist. It means refusing to let circumstances steal what Christ has given you. Your coworkers, family members, and neighbors are watching how you handle trials. They notice when you respond differently—with hope instead of despair, trust instead of panic, love instead of bitterness. This witness opens doors to share about Jesus. Today, ask God for one opportunity to be an agent of peace. Then watch Him transform the situation through you.