

<u>Series:</u> Love First week 3 <u>Sermon Title:</u> Does Jesus Want Me To Be At Peace? <u>Date</u>: 4/21/2024

Galatians 5:22-23

Jesus wants you to not occasionally have peace but to have it in every circumstance. John 14:27

Big Idea: Jesus wants you to be at peace.

To know if we're truly receiving the peace Jesus gives to us, we first need to ask ourselves:

1. Are we willing to trust Jesus no matter our circumstance? Mark 4:36–41

Just imagine being in a boat with waves so big they're swept over your boat. Is there a clearer picture of anxiety? What are the waves that are overflowing into your boat? All of our waves can be made up of different influences, but no matter what, only one voice can command them to be still. Jesus' voice.

Jesus was in a boat with his disciples, and they asked him if He even cared that they were about to die. Jesus rebuked his disciples. "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" Remember, Jesus wants you to be at peace (John 14:27), Which has always been his and will always be his heart. Jeremiah 29:11

2. Do you believe Jesus is greater than the most powerful person you know? Daniel 3:8-25

Daniel 3:8-25 happened 605 years Before Christ, and three Israelite men named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were taken into captivity to Babylon. King Nebuchadnezzar made a decree that "Whoever does not fall down and worship the golden image he had made would be cast into a burning fiery furnace." Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't obey because they followed the true God. When the king heard about this, he demanded an answer: God would deliver them from the furnace if it was His will, and they only worship God. This angered the king, and he ordered the furnace to be made 7 times hotter. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the furnace. Suddenly, the king started to notice something weird about the fire. They were walking around, and there was a fourth person there. They emerged unharmed.

Many of you have stood up to someone above you to do the God-honoring action. Learning how to walk through it as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did is Key to receiving the Peace Jesus wants to offer us.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were told to bow to a false god. They chose instead to honor God. In saying YES to Honoring God, they were saying no to the request of the human before them. Which may come with its own set of "consequences". After the threat of the consequences is presented, we need to hold fast. Luke 12:4-6

Fear God alone because He is the one with actual authority. Daniel 3:16-18 Do you trust Jesus on this Level? That even if your very life were to be threatened, you could still walk into that fire with the peace he gives you? This Level of Peace is what we read about in Philippians 4:7

When you live in this peace, you spread this peace. You become a peacemaker. In Daniel 3:26-30 we see how the king responds to what he sees in the fiery pit.

This result is not always promised, but we see that God uses Nebuchadnezzar's brokenness and the faithfulness of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. How many others would have died and continued to be persecuted had Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego taken matters into their own hands? Yet they were faithful. Even when they were in the midst of the fire, they were not alone (Daniel 3:24-25)

3. Are you willing to be a peacemaker?

If you are, this peace will overflow from you into those around you. Matthew 5:9: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Walk in the fruit of the Spirit this week as you grow in your trust of God with whatever circumstances you're going through, whether that be your college choice, school district for your kids, or retirement plan, and receive his peace. Also, make an effort to sow peace.

This week, in your office or on conference calls, sow peace.

In your Facebook post, sow peace.

In your small groups, sow peace.

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Why is peace an important characteristic of a Christian life?
- What would you tell someone who is going through a difficult situation and struggling to trust God because He seems silent?
- Are there areas of your life where you find it difficult to trust Jesus?
- What are the waves that are overflowing into your boat and causing anxiety?