



# UPON THIS ROCK

Upon This Rock Series

Part 2

April 2, 2023

Upon This Rock I Will Build My Peace

The Gospel of Saint John 16:25-33, “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup>In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup>for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup>I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going

to the Father.”<sup>29</sup> His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech!”<sup>30</sup> Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.”<sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe?”<sup>32</sup> Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup>I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” May the Lord add His blessing to the reading and the hearing of His Word today, in Jesus Name. Amen.

## OPENING THOUGHTS - Palm Sunday / Resurrection Sunday

### 1. Upon This Rock I Will Build My Peace Because My Peace Comes Not From This Present Age But From The Lord!

- a. Note verse 31-33 of our opening passage of Text, <sup>31</sup>Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe?”<sup>32</sup> Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup>I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

- b. He said these things in so that they would have peace; He warned them of things to come to keep them calm because it's easy to release fear when you know what the next move is on the proverbial chessboard.
- c. And friends, just as Christ warned His disciples, He too is warning us in our present day and His warnings are not just to warn us but also to position us in His Peace. To trust His plan, His strategy, His eternal ability.
- d. It is the Heart of the Father for us to rest in His Peace as He works out His Divine Will! Note the Words of Christ in...
- e. The Gospel of Saint John 14:25-29, <sup>25</sup>“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.”<sup>26</sup> 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.<sup>27</sup> 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.<sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.<sup>29</sup> And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.”

- f. May it be the desires of our hearts collectively that we hold fast to His Peace because it is His Peace that will last us for eternity!
- g. Point #2...

## 2. Upon This Rock I Will Build My Peace Because He Will Keep Me In His Peace!

- a. Isaiah 26:1-4, “In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: “We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks. <sup>2</sup> Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. <sup>3</sup> You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. <sup>4</sup> Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.”
- b. It would seem that per this scripture that Perfect Peace is possible and it able to be found when our minds are focused on the right thing. The challenge for us all is what are we looking at?
- c. I am reminded of the Passage of Text when Peter is walking on the water; so long as Peter gazed upon Christ, the supernatural was possible.

- d. But when Peter's eyes turned from Christ to the Crisis around him, the Storm began to consume him. The very thing that Christ empowered him to tread upon suddenly becomes his doom. But God.
- e. Aren't you thankful that the same God that was on the water enabling Peter to do the impossible was the same God who reached down, unphased by the storm, and bore Peter up from the waves that sought to end his life? Friends, the same God who beckons us out upon the water is the same God who will reach down and deliver us when our focus fails.
- f. May we never forget that we can cling to Perfect Peace when we cling to His Mighty Arm! Our Peace comes from Him and may we rest in Him today!
- g. Point #3...

### 3. Upon This Rock I Will Build My Peace Because He is the Only Peace Speaker I Know!

- a. The Gospel of Saint Mark 4:35-41, <sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup> And a great

windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. <sup>38</sup> But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”<sup>39</sup> And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.<sup>40</sup> He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”<sup>41</sup> And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

- b. Peace! Be Still! That is a prophetic word for someone today; it is time to choose Peace and Be Still. Choose peace in your Home and Be still. Choose peace in your Marriage and Be still. Choose peace in your Mind and Be still. Choose peace in your Heart and Be still. Choose peace in your Relationships and Be still.
- c. Friends, we may have no power to opt out of the storm but we do have the power to speak peace. We may be powerless to keep the storms from coming, but we are full of power to speak peace in the midst of stormy gales.
- d. Closing