

Shalom!

A message from our Lord

March 16, 2020

by

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WE ARE ALL GOING TO DIE!

Now, I know, that was a bit much. But isn't it the truth? Oh, not today; not tomorrow, but one day – for each of us – our Redeemer will call us to enter into the place that He has prepared for us.

Right now, we seem to be obsessed as a nation with the possibility that we are all going to die very soon. Many are shaken to their core!

We are told it is predominantly senior citizens who are at the highest risk (I heard 20% of all seniors who get this virus, will die from it). But – and I'm not trying to stir your hearts to fear again, I'm simply saying – we are all going to die.

Let me ask you a question about that.

Are you afraid to die?

I don't know about you, but I don't want to die. But that's not the same thing as my question, is it? Are you afraid?

In **John 14** Jesus told His disciples, ¹*“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

This is the hope of every single believer across the globe – that at some point in our time on earth, Jesus Christ will bring us to the place He has prepared for us.

In the centuries since Jesus made that promise, His words have calmed the fears of those who have faced the eventuality that each of us will one day face – and I’m not talking about paying taxes.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled,” Jesus said.

How are you doing with that today?

Has the media (and/or friends and family) robbed you of the peace that Jesus’ promise brings to the heart focused on Him?

At the end of **John 14** Jesus said, ²⁷*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

But Jesus didn’t face the coronavirus!

True, but if you look at the context of when Jesus told His disciples these things, I believe it could give you greater perspective. The narrative of **John 14** is couched within the evening of Jesus’ greatest trial.

In **1 Corinthians 11:23-26** Paul tells us,

²³*For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had*

given thanks, he broke it and said, *“This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”*²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, *“This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

On the night He was betrayed.

Think about that!

Speaking of peace to His disciples, when He knew exactly what the next hours would hold for Him.

Hear **John 14:27** again; ²⁷*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

“I do not give to you as the world gives.”

Have you ever wondered before, what those words meant? The world gives us peace when everything is going well. When we have a good job, and there is money in the bank; when we are healthy and our friends and family are all in the same boat – that’s when the world is at peace.

I’ve got to be honest with you – even before this COVID-19 outbreak – the world has not been giving us peace! Far from it! Every single news show that we’ve watched for the last umpteen years, seems to have

been programmed precisely to rob us of peace. I'm not even going to go there with you – you know what I mean!

So, what is going to be your fallback position?

Will you take Jesus at His word?

Can you live your life, knowing that your times are in His hands (**Psalm 31:15**)? If so, then you can have peace in the midst of this storm.

Peace, not panic.

Am I saying we should ignore the isolation protocols that our government is asking us to employ? No, never! That would be ignorant, and would not be the loving thing to do to the rest of this country. The protocols make sense. But we need not fear; **the Lord is with us, for us, and in us.**

Let's live like we believe that, and hold out a beacon of hope to others when we talk with them. Call people, text people; find ways to connect to others, and be the voice of calm assurance that God is in control, not this virus.

Spread the **Shalom** – that is the way of Christ.