

## BUILDING A REPUTABLE LEGACY

TEXT: John 14:27

**Key Word:** Peace

**Key Thought:** Peace is a Valuable Legacy to Leave to Those we Love

When we begin to trace the lives of the men in the Bible it doesn't take long to see how God used them in unique ways to build a legacy that would last. Their stories filled the annals of Biblical history with honourable reputations even though they never showed perfection in everything they did. Each one had something different to contribute to their families, friends and coworkers.

Just mentioning the names of Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua and king David brings alive the stories that highlighted their words and actions. They stood out in righteousness, graciousness, forgiveness, courage and boldness. They preceded the greatest leader our world has ever known. He was known as Jesus of Nazareth. There are so many qualities that we could highlight today but for the sake of time I wish to focus upon one that is vital and often disregarded.

Just before Jesus was crucified and ascended back into heaven He met with His disciples in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. He shared with them a host of precious gems to build their faith and stabilize their hope for the future without Him. It was during this time that He spoke these words that described the legacy He was leaving them.

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

*John 14:27*

The word **“peace”** is used 429 times in the KJV of the Bible. It is used only 67 times in the Koran. The Biblical meaning of the word **“Shalom”** is vastly greater than we normally think of including the notions of **totality or completeness, success, fulfilment, wholeness, harmony, security and well being**. The Greek word is **“eirene”** means **“to make peace to cultivate or keep peace, harmony, to be at peace, live in peace.”**

Remember that Jesus spoke Aramaic to His disciples. Aramaic and Hebrew are from the same family. Like most languages, Aramaic spread through centuries of conquest, spurred by the invasions of the Assyrian and later Persian empires. So Jesus used the word **“Shalom”** when speaking to His disciples.

So by using the synonyms we can get a fuller understanding of what He was saying.

***“Peace (totality or completeness, success, fulfilment, wholeness, harmony, security and well being) I leave with you; my peace (totality or completeness, success, fulfilment, wholeness, harmony, security and well being) I give you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid.”***

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All of us realize that the disciples never lived a life of peace as we often think of it. Was Jesus lying to them or trying to falsely offer them a foundation of sand to build their lives upon? Of course not, because He not only taught truth, He was truth. He warned them to protect themselves from deceptive teaching.

***“But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”***

*Matthew 16:11*

The apostle wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in His early Epistles,

***“While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”***

*I Thessalonians 5:7*

The legacy of Jesus was a total life; complete life; a successful life; a life that fulfilled the purpose He was given. His legacy of life was completely whole and in harmony with His disciples and those who accepted and followed His teaching of the Kingdom of God. Judas had left their group just shortly before He taught this.

When we think of writing a will we think of what is most important to us to bless our beneficiaries. Something very valuable to me is my library and computer files. These have the potential of changing people’s lives and that is why I chose them carefully and studied them diligently. I have a reliable car and a well maintained home but both of these will perish. Truth will remain.

In just one word, Jesus was leaving His apostles a foundation of security and well being in the midst of a chaotic world. This wasn’t just a word. This was the life He lived around them and they witnessed it every day. What a LEGACY.

## I. MY PEACE

It is very clear to me that this peace of God belonged to Him and Him alone. It identified a major part of His character. It was also one of His attributes. It was one that He could give away. He couldn't give away His omnipotence (All -Power); His Omniscience (All-Knowing); or His Omnipresence (All Present at All Times). These are attributes of God alone.

He could give them the example of His life for them to consider imitating. It was a blueprint for a successful life.

They were all going to head in different directions. Some of their lives were very short. Reports and legends abound. The Bible only mentions a few of their deaths. The last one to die was John and his was the only one by natural death.

I believe they all completed the mission they were given. None of them duplicated the life of Jesus or each other although they did imitate Jesus and each other in many ways. One significant scripture stands out to let us know that this legacy did stay with the apostles and they passed it on to others. John, in the Book of Revelation, writing to the 7 churches of Asia (today Turkey) in his greeting said,

*“John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne.”*

*Revelation 1:4*

Jesus' peace became the disciples peace and they passed it on to churches that were birthed through their faithfulness.

## II. Not As the World Gives

### A. With Strings Attached

The Bible would describe this as a having conditions. The peace of God was unconditional. There was no words like “if you do this then I will give you my peace.” Jesus had no strings attached. No wonder because no one could afford the peace of God.

I find it interesting that the world also offers peace, which can no way measure up with the peace of God) but charges in many ways for it. It tries to duplicate but fails miserably. It is counterfeit. Its like the idiom expression,

“It's not worth the paper its written upon.”

## II. Not As the World Gives (Contd.)

### A. With Strings Attached (Contd.)

We should know by now that many items and many words are not what they offer. There are so many imitations. Years ago they had a stamp on them “Made in Japan.” that has been replaced by “Made in China.” Its looks almost the same. The packaging is often the same design and colours as the original items but the quality is not there.

Jesus offers us peace that is quality controlled. It is always up to par. In fact, it is well beyond par. It cannot be matched. The difference is in plain sight but many, many people are blinded like a person wearing a veil over their eyes. We need to have eyes that see.

### B. Take it Back

A very cruel way of treating others is to take back something you have given them. Its like changing the rules of a game in the middle of it or not applying the rules that are clear to everyone. It happens everyday. It is very noticeable in sports and the political realm as well as the food industry. Some organic foods, when tested, have proven not to meet the standards of the ingredients they advertise.

Why do we have to say, **“Do you promise?”** The world offers us many things but doesn't keep up to its promises. Why do we keep the expression **“That's easy for you to say.”**

## III. No Troubled Heart

There is a big different in being troubled or being in trouble and having a troubled heart. The apostle Paul has remained throughout church history as an example of one who lived and abided in the Word of God. He lived a life that completed the task before him. He was able to experience God's *Peace* (**totality or completeness, success, fulfilment, wholeness, harmony, security and well being**)

*“I have fought the good fight, **I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.***

*8. **Now** there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”*

*II Timothy 4:7,8*

Lets build a Reputable Legacy in the time we have left to serve God.

C:\Documents\WPWin(X9)\Sermons.19\Special Days (Father's Day)/John 14\_27.wpd

Date: June 15/19

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Good, Good Father

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