

The Discipleship Project-Fall 2020

Series 1: The Peace of God

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Series Big Idea: Because Jesus offers us His peace, we should have peace flowing through our lives.

Lesson 1.2: The Prince of Peace

Lesson Big Idea

Because Jesus is the Prince of Peace, we should have peace flowing through our lives.

FOUNDATION

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 9:6 (PPT)

Shadows grew long late in the day as Jesus sat down in one of the waiting boats and concluded His lesson. For hours He had been teaching the large crowd that had gathered. Jesus had woven story after story into spiritual truths as He taught them in parables. He spoke of the sower and the seed, the incredible growth from a single grain, a great tree with spreading branches, and that the light of the world was to be displayed for all to see. Each story revealed more understanding about the kingdom of God to all those who listened and believed.

Upon concluding a long day of ministry Jesus and His disciples pushed the boats out from the shore and escaped the press of the multitude, having set their course for the opposite side. Jesus was weary from a long day of teaching and found a comfortable spot in the stern of the boat. Almost immediately He was asleep and showed no signs of awakening even as the swells grew more and more intense and the winds began to sweep waves of water over the edge of the boat. Even though some of the disciples were well trained and experienced fishermen, they quickly grew alarmed over the intensifying storm. Fear gave voice to their concern as they shook Jesus and cried out, “Don’t you care that we are about to drown?”

Unfazed, Jesus arose and simply spoke to the wind with a confident rebuke, “Peace, be still!” His more evident concern was directed towards the disciples, “Why are you so fearful? Where is your faith?”

The storm suddenly dissipated as quickly as it had arisen. Their fear of the storm and the impending threat of destruction turned into utter amazement at the miracle they had just observed. Their unanimous question was, “What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (Mark 4:41).

FRAME

The question concerning His humanity also gave insight into His divinity. The disciples queried, “**What manner of man is this?**” (PPT) Obviously, they recognized the authority of His words over the elements and were in awe of His majestic power.

Some of the greatest revelations concerning the identity of Jesus have come in the middle of a storm. The first was a revelation that resides in the fact that **He rested during crisis. (PPT)** While others feared for their lives Jesus was at rest in the midst of the crisis. He was asleep, on a pillow, in purposeful peace. His lack of consternation was not an indication of unconcern. Rather, his calm was evidence of His confidence. So, for the disciples, there was no reason to fear, as long as Jesus was on board.

- **In the biggest trial of your life have you ever been annoyed with others who profess faith and seem to be unconcerned with the severity of your situation?**

The simple spoken word of Jesus produced peace and a revelation of **His power over the elements of nature. (PPT) (PDG)** Nothing can be so frightening as a display of nature's fury. Storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, volcanoes, and earthquakes unleash dynamic power of destruction on all who are in their paths. These powerful displays of nature are often referred to as acts of God.

God is not only strong through the storm but equally powerful to prevent its destruction and to proclaim peace in its place. The power of His Word can bring peace in place of chaos. Jesus brings peace whether He speaks the Word or when the Word is read. Wind and waves, torrents and tornadoes, are all subject to His command.

- **If all of nature is under His authority, what do we have to fear? Why do we still fear at times?**

Not only did Jesus understand the source of the storm, He was also in control of the outcome. Before He went to sleep, He knew the storm was coming. Before the crisis in the boat, Jesus knew the calm that would follow. Before they launched from the shore, Jesus planned their arrival. With divine foreknowledge He said, "Let us cross over to the other side" (Mark 4:35, NKJV). Whatever happened between their departure and arrival was immaterial. They would arrive safely on the opposite shore.

The fear of the storm was redirected because a revelation of **His power will bring fear and awe. (PPT)** Their legitimate fear of death was replaced with an awe and respect for the demonstration the disciples observed in a simple command, "Peace." They immediately recognized His greatness, incredible power, and the authority of His voice.

The reason this miracle evoked fear was that the disciples suddenly recognized His authority over every spirit. Though they had seen many miracles of healings, deliverance from demons, and even the dead raised to life, there was something greater in this spiritual conflict that took place in the boat on the lake. Jesus has all authority and power over every spirit.

Jesus willingly shared authority with those who had obediently followed Him. When He sent out seventy disciples by twos He declared, "I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19). He extended His authority to work through those who went in His name. In the New English Translation (NET) the verse reads, "I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and on the full force of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you."

- **What natural event, supernatural sign, or undeniable miracle has caused you to be fearful of the awesome power and presence of God? Explain.**

In truth, Jesus was **more than a man**. (PPT) What the disciples learned in daily lessons and practical experience is revealed to us through God’s Word. However, we may also grow in our understanding of His Godhead and glory as we learn more about this one who was so much more than a man.

Paul expressed Christ’s position of authority and deity in his letter to the Ephesians. He wrote:

. . . that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality[b] and [c]power and [d]might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. (Ephesians 1:18–21, NKJV)

The demonstrated authority of Jesus over the storm was a revelation of **His deity**. (PPT) It may also serve as a confirmation of His authority over every situation. There is power in knowing who Jesus is and having confidence that He is able to do anything.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:15–16, NKJV)

When we recognize that Jesus is the **Creator of the elements of nature**, (PPT) (PDG) it is not hard to believe that He has the final word. The one who spoke, “Let there be” in Genesis, also spoke, “Peace” on the Sea of Galilee; and today, all must hear and obey Him.

Knowing who Jesus is and being in relationship with Him can bring calm into the chaos of our lives. His victory over death and the sacrifice of Calvary make us **triumphant through the Cross**. (PPT)

Paul expressed that the source of our victory is in Jesus:

Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:12–15, NIV) (PPT)

- **How would you describe the peace that comes upon experiencing the new birth; specifically, when you were baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit?**

The sudden and impending disaster of the storm that arose that evening indicated that it was **more than a storm. (PPT)** The violence of the storm was indicated by the way the disciples responded in fear. They had no doubt experienced many gales and dangerous waves in their past frequent fishing trips. But something about this storm was prompted by an evil force. The Passion Translation includes this note on Mark 4:37: “This gale of wind and ferocious tempest was demonic in nature, as Jesus was about to confront a powerful principality on the other side of the lake.”

Matthew called the storm a *seismos* in the Greek (Craig Blomberg, *Matthew*). The same word is translated earthquake in Matthew 24:7, 27:54, and 28:2. Literally, this indicated that the storm was like the rolling upheaval of an earthquake or a resultant tsunami. It was an unusual storm for it to cause experienced fishermen to fear.

The effects of this storm were beyond what is normal or natural. (PPT) It could be identified as supernatural. It was a spiritual attack against the Lord of glory, and yet Jesus remained calm—so calm that He continued to sleep. It was the disciples who awakened Him in fear for their lives.

Jesus stood and *rebuked* the winds and waves. The word for rebuke is *epitimaō*, and it was used in other passages where Jesus cast out demons (Craig Blomberg, *Matthew*). (See Mark 1:25, 9:25; and Luke 4:41.) The storm was an attack of Satan, and Jesus simply rebuked the evil and restored peace and calm with a simple command.

In context, this spiritual confrontation served as a consequential prelude to the event that was to follow. Upon arriving at the other side, **Jesus immediately encountered the demon-possessed (PPT)** in the countryside of the Gadarenes. In Matthew’s record there are “Two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way” (Matthew 8:28, NKJV). (PPT)

In Mark, we meet the man possessed with the legion, who was tormented and confined to live in the graveyard. No one desired his company. The demons recognized the authority of Jesus and pled to occupy the herd of swine rather than being cast out of the country. Jesus sent the demons into the swine, and everyone saw the sane man after his deliverance, “clothed and in his right mind.” The most astounding part of the story was the response of the people of the Gadarenes: “They were afraid,” and “They began to plead with Him to depart from their region” (Mark 5:15, 17, NKJV). They were more comfortable with the demons than with the deliverer. They could tolerate the screams of the possessed but resented the sacrifice of their swine.

The spiritual conflict of this story reveals **the tension when the prince of the power of the air met the Prince of Peace. (PPT)** It is really no conflict. When Satan has done all he can do, Jesus just speaks a word, and the situation is resolved.

When the seventy disciples whom Jesus sent out returned, rejoicing that the demons had been subject to them, Jesus seemed to minimize the miracle. He placed more importance on the fact that their names were written in Heaven. He explained, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven” (Luke 10:18, NKJV). *Like lightning* emphasized how quickly Satan fell, from a high place down to the Earth. He was grounded and neutralized. In addition, Jesus promised power, “Over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19, NKJV).

Jesus has all authority over all powers. He is **the Prince of Peace. (PPT)** The storm was actually a spiritual attack. It was an unusual and unexpectedly turbulent onslaught of the natural elements. Jesus recognized the spiritual adversity behind the storm and took authority over the enemy who brought it.

As the Prince of Peace, He holds the **position of royalty. (PPT) (PDG)** In the text the prophet predicted that, “The government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called ... Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *His* government and peace there will be no end” (Isaiah 9:6–7, NKJV). **(PPT)**

As the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ holds **the position of authority. (PPT)** When speaking to His disciples after the resurrection Jesus stated, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18, NKJV). He spoke with authority. Even the people recognized the difference of His speech compared to other teachers, “They were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Mark 1:22, NKJV). **(PPT)**

Jesus confidently spoke from the **position of victory. (PPT) (PDG)** God sees both the beginning and the end; He knows the final outcome. The battle belongs to the Lord. Death will be defeated, and Jesus will prevail over all opposition. We can be confident in that knowledge and secure in His love for us.

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38–39, NKJV)

- **How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is defending us against every spiritual attack and that nothing can separate us from His love?**

FINISH

In Israel’s history, David stands alone as the most prolific and heroic figure in their glory days of conquest. As a successor to King Saul and after many successful military campaigns, the enlargement of their occupation grew throughout the territories. The people sang songs to celebrate his prowess and accomplishments, “Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands” (I Samuel 18:7, NKJV). He became a powerful king to be feared and admired.

After many years and numerous military and political successes, David had an ultimate desire that would not be fulfilled. He desired to build a temple, a house for the Lord in Jerusalem. While his desire was noteworthy and pleasing to the Lord, David was not the man for the job. God reminded him that He was a man of many wars and conflicts. David recounted his conversation with the Lord, “But God said to me, ‘You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood’” (I Chronicles 28:3, NKJV).

David secured the site for the construction in Jerusalem, whose name means “city of peace.” The Temple of the Lord was not going to be a place to honor military conquest and the slaughter of the Israelites’ enemies, but rather, it would be a place of peace. It would be a center of worship for the nation, a house to honor God, and it would be built by one who was named a man of peace. Solomon was King David’s son, and his name meant “peaceful;” therefore, he was a prince of peace.

Solomon was a man of peace and was known for his wisdom. He built up the nation of Israel and formed treaties with other nations to increase their strength and secure their borders. He ordered the building of the Temple of the Lord and saw the project completed.

In the spectacular dedication of the Temple, Solomon prepared an extravagant sacrifice to the Lord. God accepted the Israelites’ worship and consumed the sacrifice with fire. Immediately, “The glory of the Lord filled the house. And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord’s house” (II Chronicles 7:1–2). Dedication in a place of worship will bring the presence and power of the Prince of Peace.