

## Message Notes – December 1, 2024

### *Missing Peace:*

### *Is Peace Even Possible Today?\**

those whose minds are “stayed” or “fixed” on God. We learned that God’s peace is about experiencing wholeness. The Hebrew word for “peace” is *Shalom*. What would it mean for you to experience wholeness? What would your life be like? How would this wholeness affect your daily living? Meditate on these questions, pray for God’s gift of wholeness and write your reflections here.

#### **Thursday, December 5**

Read Isaiah 9:2-7. We’ve talked about peace which is the English word we translate from the Hebrew *Shalom*. *Shalom* is so much more than peace as expressed a few ways these past few days. Having a greater appreciation for what *Shalom* means meditate on the words you just read from Isaiah. The people of Israel were living in darkness and life was difficult in those days. How are we walking in darkness today? What is occupying our minds and our lives that make life difficult? Do you feel trapped? The beginning of living with the light of God in our lives means walking out of the darkness. Imagine yourself walking away from any darkness you are experiencing. Imagine God’s presence represented by the light. What do you need to begin your journey from the darkness into the light? Realizing that God is with you on that journey, write your thoughts here.

#### **Friday, December 6**

Read once again Philippians 4:4-7 and Isaiah 26:1-4. Focus for a moment on Isaiah 26:3. The New Living Translation is translated this way, "You will keep in perfect peace all whose thoughts are fixed on you, God." What is your mind fixed on? What are you preoccupied with in your day to day living? During this Season of Advent we are focusing on Peace – God’s Peace – *Shalom*. What changes would you need to make during this Season of Advent to focus more clearly on *Shalom*. Instead of writing your thoughts here, begin to make a plan to fix your mind on God peace!

- I. What would you \_\_\_\_\_ for if you could \_\_\_\_\_ for anything?
  - A. I’d like to share something from scripture that I believe we might all \_\_\_\_\_ for.
    1. Recall the night in which Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_.
    2. That night \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord showed up on a hillside and said to a rag tag bunch of \_\_\_\_\_, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth \_\_\_\_\_ among those whom he favors!"
  - B. I would submit to you that what so many people really want in life, and don't even know that they really want it or need it; they want \_\_\_\_\_, real \_\_\_\_\_.
    1. When \_\_\_\_\_ would talk to people, greet them in coming or in going, he would often say, "\_\_\_\_\_ be with you."
    2. The Apostle Paul often said in his writings when he would start a letter, "\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ be with you."
  - C. I truly \_\_\_\_\_ that what people really \_\_\_\_\_ for in life is peace.
- II. Isaiah wrote, “The people were walking in \_\_\_\_\_ but they had seen a light; a light from God born as a child who would become a Wonderful \_\_\_\_\_, Mighty God, \_\_\_\_\_ Father, Prince of \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - A. We get a little more \_\_\_\_\_ of this peace from God in Chapter 26 or Isaiah’s book.
    1. In verse 3 Isaiah writes, “Those of steadfast

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\*Isaiah 9:2-7 and Philippians 4:4-7

\_\_\_\_\_ you keep in peace--in peace because they \_\_\_\_\_ in you.”

2. This portion of scripture is one of those that it really pays to read it in several different \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. The New International Version translates it as, “You will keep in \_\_\_\_\_ those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in you.”
  - b. The Modern King James Version is “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is \_\_\_\_\_ on You; because he trusts in You.”
3. We’ve gained perspective on peace being \_\_\_\_\_, involving the dimension of setting our \_\_\_\_\_ on God and the idea that peace involves our \_\_\_\_\_.

III. What is Shalom? It's peace with \_\_\_\_\_, it's peace with other \_\_\_\_\_. It's peace with \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. It is peace with your \_\_\_\_\_, even when your \_\_\_\_\_ aren't what you'd ever want them to be.
- B. Peace is not found in the \_\_\_\_\_ of problems, peace is found in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- C. I want to conclude with the concept of setting or \_\_\_\_\_ your mind on God when it comes to receiving the peace of God.
  1. The Hebrew word that's translated as fixed is \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. *Samak* means to \_\_\_\_\_ completely. It means to fully rest oneself.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ peace is when your thoughts are resting on God's unfailing \_\_\_\_\_.

## ***Daily Devotional Guide***

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian. It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, December 2**

Happy Advent Season! This is a time for preparing our hearts and homes once again for the birth of the Christi Child. It is also a time for wishing. The Message began with the question: What would you wish for if you could wish for anything? Although the case was made that what we all really wish for is peace, how would you answer that questions before you heard the message? Be honest. Is there a specific gift you are wishing to receive this Christmas? What makes that gift special? Write your ideas here.

### **Tuesday, December 3**

Read Philippians 4:4-7. What would it mean for you to wish for peace in our time? It may seem like a pat answer to the question of what you wish for; like contestants in a beauty pageant during the interview portion. But the peace that Jesus and the Apostle Paul talked and wrote about is a deep peace involving a sense of wholeness and contentment. It is not simply the absence of violence and conflict. As Paul wrote to the Philippians, the peace of God surpasses all understanding. We told in scripture that the peace of God is so awesome that we cannot even fathom it. What would complete and utterly pure peace mean to you? Can you begin to think about the emotions you would feel if you knew this peace? Meditate on the scripture from Philippians, pray receive the peace of God and write your thoughts here.

### **Wednesday, December 4**

Read Isaiah 26:1-4 being mindful of the specific version of scripture that you are reading. These four verses are the beginning of a song that was to be sung in the land of Judah. During the message, Pastor Jack led us through a word study of verse 3 in this passage using several different translations of scripture. We learned from that brief study that the peace Isaiah was writing about is perfect peace, a peace that God grants to