

Conclusion

Your King Comes, verse 5:

O Lord of graciousness and faithfulness,

O come though now again anew

To us, who are so sorely distressed.

It is urgent that you yourself come down to us

To renew your peace,

Against which the world revolts.⁴

¹ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Theological Education Underground: 1937–1940*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works 15; Accordance electronic ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009), 367.

² Christopher J. H. Wright, *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004), 36.

³ John Thornton, *Jesus' Terrible Financial Advice* (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2017), 31.

⁴ The fifth verse of the Christmas hymn "Your King Comes" by Friedrich Rückert, 1788-1866. Full text at http://www.liederportal.de/adventslieder/dein_koenig_kommt.php.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel calls us to a new way of life (repentance) in the community of disciples (the church). The following questions are designed to help begin the process of application in community.

- Can you think of reasons one might question the declaration that Christ came to bring peace?
- If you were to fill in the blank in the statement, "If only _____, I would have peace," what might best describe how you think?
- Why do we need peace according to Isaiah 59:1-9? (In what 2 key areas are we missing peace?)
- How did Christ bring peace to both of the areas from the previous answer? How does Christ show us the path of peace in the same act by which He brought us peace?
- What does it mean to say, "The way of the cross is the path of peace"?
- How does God's divine activity in Jesus offer peace to us today?
- How does God want to continue His divine activity through "Christ in you" to bring peace to this community today?

Do You Know What Will Bring You Peace?

Jerry Cisar — December 22, 2019

Text: Luke 19:41-44

Introduction

- A. What does the coming of God in Jesus Christ have to do with peace?

- B. Do you know what will bring you peace?

I. Why do we need peace?

- A. Shalom
 - i. The idea underlying that word is completeness. We have peace when we are restored to a condition of completeness, when our lives are whole.
 - ii. Bonhoeffer described peace as "*the end of affliction, of death, of Satan, of disorder, of enmity, of confusion, of fear, of the sword and dissension. Peace means becoming whole in Jesus Christ.*"¹
- B. Isaiah 59:1-9 explains why we need peace.
 - i. We need peace because our iniquities have separated us from our God.
 - a) 2 Corinthians 5:18
 - b) Col. 1:22
 - ii. Separation and reconciliation

- C. What *kind* of iniquities have separated us from God?
- i. Justice
 - a) Social justice is justice that is experienced in a community, in relationship to others. It is “social.”
 - b) As Christians we are proclaiming that true social justice can only be had in the kingdom of God in Jesus Christ.
 - ii. Our lack of peace is connected to injustice (Isaiah 59:8).

We cannot have peace with God while we are still actively persisting in the ways of injustice toward our neighbor, because that is what caused our separation to begin with!

- D. Reconciliation is accomplished in Jesus Christ.
- i. Eph. 2:15-16
 - ii. We are reconciled to God in the body of Jesus on the cross, and when we arrive... we find each other! We are reconciled to each other in that same cross.

II. What Will Bring Us Peace?

- A. Zechariah’s Prayer (Luke 1:76-79)
- i. Our knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of sins is not merely an awareness of a divine transaction that takes place... we are now forgiven. It is a knowledge of the actions taken by God to deliver us! It is a knowing of God.
 - ii. Chris Wright about “knowing God”: “It means more than just knowing what God has done (the stories), or knowing what God has said (the teachings). It means knowing the LORD in person, as a living character; knowing what his values, concerns and priorities are; knowing what brings

him joy or makes him angry. And that in turn will mean living in the light of such knowledge.”²

- a) Jer. 9:24
- b) Jer. 22:15-16

To know Christ is not merely to imitate His actions, but to be moved to act by the same compassion that moved Him to act.

- B. Jesus demonstrated how to walk in this “path of peace”?
- i. Colossians 1:20
 - ii. The “path of peace” is the way of the cross.

- C. Do you know what will bring you peace?
- i. In going to the cross, Jesus Himself walked in the teaching that He had given us (Luke 7:27-30).

“In essentially the same order as the words He spoke to His disciples on the mountainside, He took those ideals to their extreme on the cross. From ‘turning the other cheek,’ to being beaten nearly to death; from ‘let them take your shirt as well,’ all the way down to letting them cast dice for His undergarment; from ‘give to the one who asks you,’ to giving eternal life to a criminal who only a while before had been hurling insults at Him. And finally, offering forgiveness to all of them. Even those who didn’t ask for forgiveness. This is what separates Jesus and His teachings from all others. When it was time to put everything on the line, Jesus showed that He didn’t just talk a good game. He lived it. To the full.”³

- ii. **The path of peace is the way of the cross.** *Jesus, through the cross, teaches us what will bring us peace. First, by reconciling us to God, and second, by showing us how to live what He taught.*