

CHRIST: OUR PEACE

Houses of Light Church - June 6-7, 2020 - Pastor Netz Gomez

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **We are not yet through the pandemic when another crisis strikes again**, as we all know due to the murder of an African-American man named George Floyd by an unscrupulous policeman, violent protests have erupted across the country and further complicating matters. Many businesses that were about to reopen in many cities now cannot do so because we are on a curfew and the economy cannot revive as everyone expected.
- B. Last week Elijah Choi shared with us about how **God loves us and uses crisis to speak to us, but we can fall into confusion or complain and revealing that we are not as intimate with Him as we thought we were.** And our intense desire to return to normalcy can spiritually stifle us to the point that we lose the message that caused the crisis, prolonging it even further and showing that we are more interested in God freeing us from the problem than in turning to Him with all our hearts.
- C. We can now see that as a country and even globally we are living from one shock to the other; when it is not a fire, it is a tragedy, when not a pandemic, it is riots nationwide due to social injustice. **All of this is leading the world to live in desperate fear for peace and security.**

II. CHRIST IS OUR NEW PEACE

Lk. 21:25-34 "And there will be signs... on the earth distress of nations... ²⁶ people fainting with fear... ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. ³⁴ But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life."

- A. Jesus spoke to us as a prophet and pastor warning us that these kinds of distressing events would take place around the world prior to His return and that they could keep the world and even His people so desperate for peace and security that they would lose sight of His impending return.
- B. In this desperation for peace and security, people are turning to all kinds of things, from drugs to pornography; from protests to political movements of all kinds, but **what everyone needs to understand is that peace and security is not simply the absence of conflicts, or a bank account that guarantees our future; not even a government system that gives money to everyone; but a relationship with a person called Jesus who conquered sin, death, the devil, and is able to fill the heart with joy and peace, not only for a moment but forever.**
- C. **It is not simply about avoiding things but instead keeping our peace because things are not going to fix themselves.** So the question is how can

we live with peace in the midst of the storm? **Not only quoting promises that sound encouraging for us but to listen to the voice of our Beloved, King and Judge directly speaking to our hearts.**

- D. In **John 14:1** after Jesus announced to his disciples the shock they were going to experience he told them **'Don't be afraid; if they have believed in God, they can also believe in me.'** **Jesus gives us security in the midst of the shaking. We can put all our trust in Him, We have nothing to fear, He is our security. We do not fear the future.** By His perfect and powerful work He assures us that in the end He will fill everything with His glory and we will be forever with Him, **that is why we can continue fighting and be confident that both the journey and the end will be glorious.**
- E. A little later in this passage from **Jn. 14: 6** Jesus comforts and brings peace to His disciples by giving them the most important and most necessary response: **"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me."** This statement tells us that **whoever has Christ has everything he needs;** and therefore whoever is not satisfied in Christ alone is seeking something that is beyond absolute perfection which does not exist.
1. **JESUS IS THE WAY,** the only way to reach the Father by following Him, obeying Him, knowing Him, believing in Him. **Only by his merits and by his blood can we approach God with confidence.** He is the only way to the most holy place. **If we follow it we will not get lost. We must cast off all fear and mistrust.** Our goal is to be like Him, to do what He does, to think as He thinks, to speak as He speaks, and to obey as He obeyed the Father. **Do you want to be a good spouse? Christ is the way ... a good father, son, boss, leader ... Jesus extends His hand when we are going astray and will take us to the end to participate in the eternal life that is in Him.**
 2. **JESUS IS THE TRUTH:** The truth is not a set of correct, intelligent, and reasonable ideas; or a certain philosophy or religion; He is a person, His name is Jesus. Everything He said, **His prophecies and promises are true. He has never lied or exaggerated. He alone shows things as they really are in heaven and on earth.** Man's ideas can become good, but only He reveals the true condition of everything that exists. He describes the condition of the churches but also the worth of a widow and a child. We can know that something is true because it is aligned with Jesus, if not, it is not. **We must not seek other wisdom "higher" than that which is in Him is the only one that leads us to eternal life and is only found in Him. You must not look anywhere else; at the same time He is the means to obtain it. He will not fail you.**
 3. **JESUS IS LIFE:** He not only created the material world but gave it life. He is the agent by which living things subsist. **His words are words of eternal life;** without Him we are dead in our sins and on the way to eternal damnation.

Jn. 5:26 *"For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself"*

Jn. 6:33 *"For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*

Jn. 11:25 *"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.' Do you believe this?"*

- F. **Our happiness is only in Christ:** Many people have idolized their partners, children or relatives, achievements, fame, positions, etc. but none of this can fill you as Jesus does. **If you move far away from Him, you won't do anything else but go astray, if you do not rest in Him sooner or later you will get exhausted and feed on anything else that is only vanity and wind.** If you are not satisfied in Him alone you will find death instead of life.
- G. **This world wants to dazzle us with everything it sells us, making us believe that its' diversions, pleasures, or what they call success is the maximum, but the people who have all that but do not have Christ are still empty.** He alone is the bread that came down from heaven and gives life to the world whoever eats of Him will never be hungry or thirsty. **God cannot be enjoyed in any other way than in Christ, therefore when any theology separates from Christ it is not only vain and confusing but deceitful.** The philosophers although they say very eloquent things if they do not have Christ, they have nothing but erroneous and impious feelings.

III. JESUS INVITES US TO DINE WITH HIM

Rev. 3:20 -22 *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

- A. **Christ loves His people with a holy and divine love.** His affection is on everyone; He has shown us His love (**Rom. 5: 8**). **It is time for us to say: You have my attention, I want to hear your voice speaking to my heart; I do not want to hear the voice of fear or everything I hear around me, I do not want to avoid or simply distract myself.**
- B. **The Lord continues to invite us to a close friendship with Him.** **The fact that Jesus is at the door (outside) is desire to be let in.** He could enter as he did after the resurrection without even using the door but **He respects our decisions and priorities.** He does not come in by force, He wants my consent.
- C. **"If anyone hears My voice and opens the door ..."** The condition is to hear His voice: **are you hearing His voice? His voice is saying let me enter in the deepest part of you. His knocking on the door can be lost amid the noise and the bustle of life.** Between so many conversations and the hustle and bustle of life and family.

- D. **There is an action on my part which is to open the door. What is opening the door?** It is the action that allows Him to access the deepest part of my being; it is to give Him the time and attention He deserves. **WHAT HE IS GOING TO DO IS HAVE DINNER WITH ME:** He comes prepared with His bread and wine, He serves me the bread and wine. **How do I feel when Christ reaches the most intimate place and what do I have to offer him? And I'm going to have dinner with Him. He serves me His Word which is Himself and I eat it and I give my love, attention, and obedience to Him.**
- E. **He wants to have dinner with you and that you dine with Him daily. We want to show Him hospitality so that He can come into the most intimate part of our hearts.**

IV. ONLY JESUS CAN HEAL THE BROKENNESS OF MAN: HE IS THE SOLUTION

- A. Dan Juster wrote this week: *"Without regeneration and influence on the society of the regenerate, people will seek to dominate others and wield power for their benefit and at their expense. Sin will lead to racism, ethnocentrism, sadism, hedonism, misogyny. That is why it becomes the job of the body of the Messiah to bring the prophetic voice to the situation, the movements of justice and reconciliation based on the equal value of all people. If a particular racial or ethnic group is treated more unfairly, the prophetic focus will be to redress that injustice ... "*
- B. **More than ever we need to fill ourselves with all that Christ is and share it to a broken world by showing the love of Christ to all the broken men no matter what race they are. We are all broken men and women who need the redemption that Jesus is willing to give us today, right here. MULTITUDES WILL NEED THOSE WHO ARE WALKING IN POWER AND VALUE, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT GOD IS DOING.** The people of understanding will be part of the solution rather than a contribution to confusion.
- C. **We must position ourselves to receive greater understanding (to watch) to understand what the Lord is doing, and greater strength (by praying) to love better when the pressures increase.** Those who grow in understanding and strength will be empowered to remain overcomers.

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Is Jesus being your peace? Explain.
2. How have you been able to impart the peace of Christ to those around in this hour?
3. How have you been able to impart the peace of Christ to those who do not know Him in this hour?