Peace in our Time

A CALM SOUL IN A CHAOTIC WORLD - PART 2

Message # 1338
Pastor David Hulon Hood
July 23-24, 2016

Peace is not pacification...or the absence of conflict
Peace is an inner state of the soul.

“Frenzy destroys our inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of our work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful.” - Thomas Merton

“Be still, be calm, see and understand I am the True God.” Psalm 46:10 (The Voice)

“One day, when evening had come, he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side.’ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in a boat, just as he was going. And other boats were with them. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was at the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said, ‘Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?’ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, ‘Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?’ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’ Mark 4:35-41 (English Standard Version)

Two things to notice:
1.
2.

So how can I find this soul peace?

“There is no road towards peace; peace is the road.” - Gandhi

Prayer.
“Lord of Creation, keep us mindful of the delicate moments of grace we see each day. In this world of turmoil and desolation that we have fashioned out of our rebellion, keep us focused on the peace that only You can bring. And in those graces, let our souls bring peace to another.” - David Hulon Hood

Welcome to Springcreek!
If it is your first time with us, we would love to get to know you better. Please fill out a response card in the seat-back pocket in front of you and bring it to the Welcome Center in the lobby or drop it in any offering box. We will give you more information about how you can engage in the ministry of Springcreek.

Giving
Springcreek is supported by the generous contributions of the members and attendees of the church. You can give through offering boxes placed throughout the lobby and auditorium, the giving kiosk, or online at springcreekchurch.org.

Need Prayer, Pastoral Care or Spiritual Direction?
Pastors and chaplains are here to help you. Visit our Prayer Team after services at the front of the auditorium or contact Associate Pastor David Hood at 214.403.2127 or at springcreekchurch.org/adults/lifecare.

Get Equipped - Get Engaged
Upcoming events and classes:

Courageous Conversation Series
Saturday, July 30, 9:00 - 11:00am

A Night of Questions: Dealing with Doubt (Rescheduled from July 12)
Tuesday, August 9, 7:00 - 8:30pm
Childcare available

Race and Power Workshop
Saturday, August 13, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Springcreek Church Blood Drive
Benefitting Scottish Rite Hospital for Children
Sunday, August 14, 8:30am - 1:00pm, Springcreek Parking Lot

Women’s Coffee Talk
Thursday, August 18, 7:00 - 8:30pm
With Janet Williams "Making Space for Christ in a Busy Life"

Silence and Solitude Experience
With Pastor David Hood and Christy Stone, LPC
Saturday, August 20, 10:00 - 11:30am

Women’s Fall Retreat
Friday and Saturday, September 9 - 10, 2016
$25 with optional hotel (additional charge)
Register in the lobby or online at springcreekchurch.org

For more information, a full list of upcoming events and classes or to RSVP, visit springcreekchurch.org or stop by the Welcome Center after service.

Any musical selections or media elements used in our services are for illustrative purposes only and are not an endorsement of any artist, musical group, film, or television program.

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Unless otherwise noted, all verse references are from the New International Version (NIV)
Series: Peace in Our Time
Part 2: A Calm Soul in a Chaotic World
Pastor David Hulon Hood
July 23-24

Expanded Message Resources

Pacification or Peace
Neville Chamberlain Story
Out of the ashes of the First World War, the map of Europe was re-drawn and several new countries were formed. As a result of this, three million Germans found themselves now living in part of Czechoslovakia. When Adolf Hitler came to power, he wanted to unite all Germans into one nation.

In September 1938 he turned his attention to the three million Germans living in part of Czechoslovakia called the Sudetenland. Sudeten Germans began protests and provoked violence from the Czech police.

Hitler claimed that 300 Sudeten Germans had been killed. This was not actually the case, but Hitler used it as an excuse to place German troops along the Czech border.

During this situation, the British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, flew to meet Hitler at his private mountain retreat in Berchtesgaden in an attempt to resolve the crisis...Chamberlain’s flight to Berchtesgaden was followed by another to Godesberg a week later and then another to Munich on 29 September. At Munich, Chamberlain got an international agreement that Hitler should have the Sudetenland in exchange for Germany making no further demands for land in Europe.

Chamberlain said it was “Peace in our time.” Hitler said he had “No more territorial demands to make in Europe.” On 1 October German troops occupied the Sudetenland: Hitler had got what he wanted without firing a shot.

Less than a year later, Hitler’s troops begin firing shots in Poland.
Pics of London, Imperial War Museum

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed....Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never.”
— Elie Wiesel, Night

Peace is not pacification...or the absence of conflict

Peace is an inner state of the soul.

Peace is not a piece of paper...Peace is also not a mantra or a saying that magically brings you to a place of calm and makes all your problems disappear.

When we desire serenity, inner peace, what are we seeking? A sense of calm, a life without complications?

That is not a reality...all live has complications. But, maybe we can choose to live in a way that does not create additional pressures.

Psalm 46:10 (The Voice)
“Be still, be calm, see, and understand I am the True God.

The Scream by Edvard Munch
God calls us to be still because in stillness we can feel the prompting of his Spirit, we can hear his whisper, we can rest in the peace of soul where he renews and restores us.

There is healing in our quietness with God, not just in our busyness for God.

In Mark 3, Jesus had a very long, hot, not so-great day, and in his humanity he knew he needed rest, in both body and soul.

Let’s set the context here, It had been an interesting day for Jesus. First, he was accused by the Pharisees of being controlled by Beelzebub or Satan, second his mother and brothers showed up to basically kidnap him and take him home to Nazareth.

Mark 3:20-21
Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him (take control of him), for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.” (Embarrassing relative, I won’t name names in my family, you know who you are.)

When he refused to receive them, he went down to the sea, pressed by the crowd he taught in a boat all day, sharing the (short stories) or parables.

Jesus Calms a Storm
Mark 4:35-31 (English Standard Version)
On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!”

And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Don’t we feel that way sometimes as we look around us… God, don’t you care that we are dying!

Two things to notice.
1. Jesus was at peace in the storm.

Acts 17:28 (English Standard Version)
‘In him we live and move and have our being’
Psalm 4:8 (The Voice)
Tonight I will sleep securely on a bed of peace because I trust You, You alone, O Eternal One, will keep me safe.

2. Jesus spoke to the storm.

What are our storms? You may have any number of unique personal crises you are going through, but our world has plenty of storms to propel us into a state of fear.

Racism, brutality, indifference, hunger, homelessness, violence, politics, natural disasters, terrorism…the list goes on. How can we possibly not fear all these things,

Learn to be still.

“Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace.”
— Albert Schweitzer

So how can I find this soul peace?

First of all stop trying to define and control. Slow down, be quiet and listen to what God is saying.

Philippians 4:7 (The Voice)
And know that the peace of God a peace that is beyond any and all of our human understanding will stand watch over your hearts and minds in Jesus, the Anointed One.

Second, trust that God is present, even in the chaos and do not fear.

Jesus says that over 100 times in the Gospels, “Do not fear”… In order not to fear we must relinquish our control to His love…

1 John 4:18 (The Voice)
“Love will never invoke fear. Perfect love expels fear…”

Third, speak to the storm.

“There is no road towards peace; peace is the road”
-Gandhi

Inner peace, soul peace is not a destination, it is a resident state within us that God inhabits through his Spirit.
Peace is the inner and outer road we walk as believers, loving another into seeing God’s grace, realizing that true peace cannot be forced, it must be realized through a changed heart.

Today, and whatever the future brings, while the world continually churns day into night, violence into chaos, we seem to wilt on the brink of ruin. There, at the edge, is a calm, a trust, a hope and a peace that transcends hatred and gives purpose to our souls, brings peace to us in the storm.

Though fear and anger may try to strip us of our humanity, it is the peace of God; impossible, inexplicable and inextinguishable that stands watch over you, leading us in peace together to a higher view, and a loving road for all who dare to walk it alongside one another.

Whatever storm you are facing, God still whispers to you, “Why are you so afraid? Peace be still, and see what I will do. Do not fear, let the Spirit of the Living God calm your soul and say, It is well.”

Prayer
“Lord of Creation, keep us mindful of the delicate moments of grace we see each day. In this world of turmoil and desolation that we have fashioned out of our rebellion, keep us focused on the peace that only You can bring. And in those graces let our souls bring peace to another.”

Luke 1:77-79 (The Voice)
So that the Lord’s people will receive knowledge of their freedom through the forgiveness of their sins. All this will flow from the kind and compassionate mercy of our God. A new day is dawning: the Sunrise from the heavens will break through in our darkness, And those who huddle in night, those who sit in the shadow of death, Will be able to rise and walk in the light, guided in the pathway of peace.