

Theme: In spite of their sorrow and fear, Jesus declares that his departure to the cross, and ultimately to the Father, will bring a lasting & unshakable peace to his disciples through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We, too, have the same residing Spirit and peace to guard and keep us.

Background: Jesus is seeking to comfort and encourage the disciples as he prepares to leave.

Introduction: What is the longest running, most faithfully kept tradition of the US Congress? Reading George Washington’s farewell address on February 22. Make your last words count.

I. Understanding Peace (27)

A. The world’s peace

1. Built on external circumstances –
 - The absence of conflict
 - World without war?
 - Peace at the expense of “truth”?
2. Internal peace when the world isn’t “peaceful”
 - Meditation, mindfulness

B. The Lord’s peace

1. In the Father’s will
 - Of one mind, desire, purpose, plan with the Father
2. In the midst of trial, opposition
 - Not its absence
 - John 11:33; Mark 3:5; Luke 22:44
3. Sacrificed for our sake
 - Why have you forsaken me?? (Matthew 27:46)

C. The disciple’s peace

1. In the world? (John 15:18)
2. In relationships? (Romans 12:14ff)
3. In God
 - Reconciled to God
4. Inner peace
 - Not just on “the outside”
 - Filled with the knowledge of the truth

II. The Essentials of Peace

A. Knowledge of the Savior (25)

1. His identity (7,11)
 - If you have seen Jesus you have seen the Father
 - One with the Father
2. His mission
 - Where I’m going you can’t come (John 13:33)
 - Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life (John 14:6)

3. His call
 - Joy! (28)
 - Love one another (John 13:34)
 - Obedience (21)

B. The Holy Spirit (26)

1. He is *Holy*
 - He is a person (John 14:16,17,26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Romans 8:26)
 - He has divinity (Acts 5:3,4; 2 Timothy 3:16)
 - He is the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9-11; Acts 16:6,7)
2. His ministry described
 - Teaching
 - Enlightening/illuminating
 - Reflecting the ministry of Jesus
 (e.g. – He is *in* the disciples (14:17,20; 15:4,5); He is their teacher (14:26; 13:13); Bearing witness (15:26; 8:14); He intercedes for us (Romans 8:34; 8:27))
3. Division over the instrument of peace – 1054 AD
 - Dividing the Eastern Orthodox and Western (Roman Catholic) Church
 - The “filioque clause” of the *Athanasian Creed*
 - John 14:26/15:26/16:7-8

C. Belief (29,1,11,12)

1. In God the Son
2. In the Savior’s work (going to the cross)
3. Personal trust
 - In who Jesus is (1,11,12)
 - In his work in the world on your behalf
 - In his word and promise (29)
 - Not intellectual assent – but trust!

III. The Fruit of Peace

A. Confidence (30,31)

1. In the sovereignty of God
 - The Father is fulfilling his plans
 - The devil’s work will serve the purposes of God!
2. In God’s perfect provision
 - Through Christ’s teaching, sacrifice
 - Through the gift of the Spirit
 - Through his presence, protection

B. Rest (27-29)

1. For the disciples
 - Evidence in the Book of Acts
2. For us
 - In the midst of trial – not just in its absence!
 - Evident in the lives of the saints
3. Forever!