

“Out of Sight, but not out of Mind!”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Pray:** *Back to school! Teachers & School Counselors* (**Public** [Univ/College/HS/JrH/Elem]; **Private** School; **Home** School)
- B. **Wed. Night Series:** *Brushing up on Basics Series!* - Starts this Wed.
 - 1. **#1 Why should I trust the Bible is Accurate?** (What are the Scriptures? How did we get the 66 books? Manuscript Evidence; How we got our English Bible? Why so many different Bible translations?)
- C. **Left off** in vs.18 w/Jesus promising the disciples, *I will not leave you orphans*. Used of children w/o a father, but also of **disciples** w/o a **master**. (LKGNT; Barret)
- D. **Is anything troubling your heart today? What is it? Let not your hearts be troubled. Ok, but how?**
- E. **Story:** In the Philippines a **driver of a caribou wagon** was on his way to market when he overtook an old man carrying a heavy load. Taking compassion on him, the driver invited the old man to ride in the wagon. Gratefully the old man accepted. After a few minutes, the driver turned to see how the man was doing. To his surprise, he found him **still straining under the heavy weight**, for he had not taken the burden off his shoulders.
 - 1. When Jesus said, *I will give you rest* have you been like this old man who took Him up on salvation but not **true rest, true peace?**

II. **OUT OF SIGHT, BUT NOT OUT OF MIND! (19-31)**

- A. **OUT OF SIGHT...!** (19-24)
- B. (19) **The world lives by sight, & when Jesus is out of sight, He's out of mind.**¹
 - 1. But Christians **live by faith** & see the **eternal dimension of Christ** behind their circumstances.
 - a) We have confidence that whatever circumstance befall us, they can *work together for the good* of conforming us to Christ's image.
 - 2. **Our ability to see** is influenced by what we have been **trained to look for!**
 - a) A **doctor** will see more by looking down the throat of a sick child **than** any parent.
 - b) An **artist** will appreciate a tour through a gallery **much more than** someone w/o those sensibilities.

¹ Chuck Swindoll; John 14; pg.98.

- c) A **seamstress** will appreciate a finely tailored outfit **much more than** someone whose eyes have not been trained to notice such subtleties of style & precision.
- d) The 1st time I went **dove hunting** I couldn't tell a dove's flight pattern from the other birds. **Now** I can spot them when there 100 yards away.

3. So, too if our eyes are trained **to see God's hand** in **our circumstances**, **then** each pressure indenting *the clay of our lives* will be seen **not** to bend us out of shape **but** to mold us into vessels of honor - fit for a king.

C. (21-24) **3 principles** that will strengthen our weak hearts:

1. **Knowledge** of the truth removes fear - **Know** (20).
 - a) **Information** from God's word takes away *superstition & trauma* of death (Belize conf)
2. **Application** of the knowledge reduces anxiety - **Keeps** (21).
 - a) If you **have** His commandments, **keep** them! **Make His word** a vital part of your life.
3. **Love** for the Lord releases guilt - **Love** (22).
 - a) **Love**, the highest of motivation. **When we love the Lord** we desire to please Him.

D. (22) If I was **this Judas**, I would make "*not Iscariot*" my middle name! [His question from vs.19]

1. But, also think it through from their understanding of what would happen when Messiah came (i.e. **Displaying Himself to the world**) [Will happen at 2nd coming]

E. (23) **We will come to him** - *It is 1 thing for us to go to heaven & quite something else for heaven to come to us!* (Warren Wiersbe)

F. **Make our home with Him** - God **prepares a mansion** for those who believe in Christ, & asks in return that we **prepare our hearts** as guest chambers for Him to dwell in.

1. As He enters the loving, cleansed, & believing heart, **we hear Him say**, *This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.* Ps.132:14.
2. **Yes** I'm going to prepare a **mansion** for you in My Father's house; **but** while you remain on earth in your temporary tents, We will come & make our home in your heart & actually dwell there.
 - a) Just as the **glory** of the Lord filled the **Tabernacle** in the wilderness, **so** the Trinity will fill **your heart** with their **majestic presence**.

G. **...BUT NOT OUT OF MIND!** (25-31)

H. (27a) **My Peace** is **not** the power of positive thinking; It is **not feelings** the disciples have to conjure up; **nor circumstances** they have to cover up!

I. **My Peace**=a heart untroubled; *fearless in spite of suffering or conflict that comes our way.*

1. *It's an inner calm in the midst of tempestuous outer storms!* [Read 16:33!]

- J. **Illustration:** 2 painters were once asked to paint a picture illustrating *his own idea* of rest. **The first** chose for his scene a quiet, lonely lake, nestled among mountains far away. **The second**, using swift, broad strokes on his canvas, painted a thundering waterfall. Beneath the falls grew a fragile birch tree, bending over the foam. On its branches, nearly wet with the spray from the falls, sat a robin on its nest.
1. **The first** painting was simply a picture of *stagnation* and *inactivity*.
 2. **The second**, however, depicted rest.
 3. **Outwardly, Christ** endured one of the most troubled lives ever lived. Storms and turmoil, turmoil and storms. Wave after wave broke over Him until His worn body was laid in the tomb. **Yet His inner life** was as smooth as a sea of glass, and a great calm was always there.
- K. Rest is not some *holy feeling* that comes upon us in church. It is a state of calm rising from a heart deeply and firmly established in God. *Henry Drummond*
- L. My peace I give in times of deepest grief, Imparting calm and trust and My relief.
My peace I give when prayer seems lost, unheard; Know that My promises are ever in My Word.
My peace I give when you are left alone - The nightingale at night has sweetest tone.
My peace I give in times of utter loss, The way of glory leads right to the cross.
My peace I give when enemies will blame, Your fellowship is sweet through cruel shame.
My peace I give in agony and sweat, For My own brow with bloody drops was wet.
My peace I give when nearest friend betrays - Peace that is merged in love & for them prays
My peace I give when there's but death for thee - The gateway is the cross to get to Me.²
- M. **My peace** - Who is **qualified & authorized** to speak of & offer *this peace*?
1. No one except...He that is **called the Prince of Peace!**
Who's **Ministers** are the messengers of peace!
His **Word** is the Gospel of Peace!
His **Way** is the path of peace!
- N. **Why does He give it now?** Because anything left us by a dying friend is valued & esteemed all the more highly.
1. **My peace I give to you** - Picture Jesus reading His own Last Will & Testament: Lands & houses, the worlds goods, silver & gold, he had none to leave. *But what He has He gives unto us.*
 - a) **My Peace I give to you; My Love I give to you**(15:9); **My Joy I give to you**(15:11)
 2. An angel announce **peace** at His **birth**; He Himself bequeathed **peace** at His **death**, *Peace I leave with you!* [Proving once again, **He loved them to the end!**]

² L.S.P. (not sure who this poet is); taken from June 13th, Streams in the Desert.

3. Were these words confined to them? No, they stood as the representatives of all His people...**Read** Jn.17:20-22.
- a) **Yet not all people!** Is.57:19-21(NLT) **May they have abundant peace**, both near and far(Jew & Gentile), says the Lord, who heals them. **But those who still reject me** are like the **restless sea**, which is **never still** but continually churns up mud and dirt. There is **no peace** for the wicked, says my God.
- O. (27b) Why should our hearts be troubled, if Jesus is **the way** to the Father; if He reveals **the truth** about the Father; & if He shares **the life** of the Father with us?
- P. **Also**, Jesus' words, *let your heart not be troubled*, infer that his disciples have the ability to keep their emotions afloat during the tempests they experienced.
1. Ok, once again, **how do we do that?** - **[1]** Remember we have **the Paraketos/ the Holy Spirit** to empower us **[2]** **Jesus' Promises**, because **fear** usually grips us when we either *ignore* or *forget* what God said **[3]**We have **His Peace**
- Q. (28b) **If you loved Me**, you would rejoice because I said, 'I was going to the Father.'
1. (Bruce Milne) **Jesus** invites them to rise above what His departure is going to mean **for them**, to consider what it will mean **for Him**. Their love for Jesus should allow them to be happy **for Him** that He is going away, since the journey, albeit through the horrors of the cross, will take him again to the intimacy of the Father's bosom, & to the **"glory I had with you before the world began."**
- R. (28c) **For My Father is greater than I** - In what sense?
1. JW's argue from this statement that **Jesus** is **a lesser god**.
2. **So in what sense is He talking greater?** The Father is greater **in office & glory than** the Son was in His **humiliation** on earth. **By going back to the Father He would be exalted again in glory.**
- S. (30) **I will no longer talk much with you**, for the ruler of this world is coming -
1. His **teaching time** was **now limited** **because** Satan was moving his forces against Jesus through Judas.
2. **Satan thought Jesus' death was a victory** for him, **but actually** it was Jesus' **victory** over Satan.
- T. (30) **He has nothing in me**-*no hold on me*(NIV); *no claim on me*(ESV); *no power over me*(NLT)
1. **He sure has a lot on us!** Imagine Satan dropping a match on all our sinful dry leaves. - **But there is nothing flammable in Jesus!**

- U. (31) 2 more reasons why Jesus faced the cross - to show His **love/obedience** to His Father
- V. (31b) **Arise, let us go from here** - Showing His willingness to suffer.
1. **I will** not wait for the enemy; **I will** go & meet Him.
 2. **I will** go to the place where Judas will look for me.
 3. **I will** go to the garden of Gethsemane where I am to agonize, & from there to Calvary where I am to die!
 - a) **I have a baptism to be baptized with & how distressed I am till it is accomplished!**³
- W. **Obedience**, motivated by **love**, gives Jesus **a warm blanket of peace** in the midst of the *chilling storm front* beginning to roll into His life.
1. His obedience sets the **perfect pattern for us** when we find ourselves **left alone** in a **torrential downpour** of fateful circumstances!
- X. **END:** Even though *the wind & waves obey Him*, Christ may not calm all **your storms**. But, He can take your fearful heart & transform it into a calm, inner eye of faith in the midst of your storms. **First learn to trust Him!**
1. Is.26:3,4 **You will keep him in perfect peace**(shalom/shalom), **Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, For in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength.**

³ Lk.12:50