The Life of Jesus (143)

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ (6)

Peace and Joy(1)

Luke 24:33-43

#1 Peace Be with You

As the eleven disciples, along with the two who had returned from Emmaus, were talking excitedly about the resurrection, Jesus Himself appeared among them.

These were the very first words He spoke to them. "While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" (Luke 24:36)

The apostle John describes the same moment in this way.

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you!..." (John 20:19–21)

#2 Peace Be with You

The disciples were gathered together in one place, and all the doors were locked. This tells us just how fearful and isolated they felt.

The official charge brought against Jesus by the religious leaders before Pilate was treason against Caesar.

And the diciples were the ones closest to Jesus. They believed in Him, followed Him, and called Him their Lord. From the world's perspective, they were guilty by association. Now, in the eyes of both the Jewish leaders and the Roman authorities, they could very well be the next targets.

This fear gripped them. That's why they locked themselves in. That's why they cut themselves off from the outside world. The situation was truly hopeless.

There was no one left to believe in or follow. No one to lead them forward. And they themselves were now in danger of meeting the same fate. Who could rejoice in a moment like this?

#3 Peace Be with You

But what we witness in the very next moment is a stunning reversal.

Jesus came and stood among them—even though the doors were locked—and He showed them His hands and His side.

That encounter with the risen Lord brought great joy to the disciples. In that moment, their despair was turned into hope, their sorrow into joy, and their fear into peace. These are the incredible blessings that the resurrection of Jesus Christ brings.

Among all these amazing blessings, today we want to focus on one in particular—the peace that the risen Lord gives.

According to John, when the risen Jesus appeared to His disciples, the very first words He spoke to them were, "Peace be with you." But He didn't say it just once. After showing them His hands and His side, He said it again: "Peace be with you."

#4 Peace Be with You

This repetition shows just how important this message of peace was to the disciples. Jesus wasn't simply saying it as a greeting. No—peace was the good news He deeply wanted His disciples to know, to receive, and to live in.

The Greek word translated as "peace" here is **εἰρήνη** (eir**ē**n**ē**), and it means far more than just a calm or quiet feeling. It carries the deeper sense of an end to conflict—the kind of peace that comes when a war is over or when turmoil and unrest are finally settled.

So when the risen Jesus declared, "Peace be with you," He wasn't simply offering comfort or a soothing word. He was proclaiming something far greater: the war is over. The victory has been won. The unrest and anxiety within their hearts could now come to an end.

This message of peace is one of the most profound and rich expressions of the gospel itself. From beginning to end, Scripture points to this deep, restoring peace that only God can give, which is completed through Jesus' death and resurrection.

#5 Shalom

The peace Jesus spoke of—eir**ē**n**ē**—is deeply connected to the Old Testament concept of shalom.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Nm 6:24-26)

This blessing was given by God to Moses as instructions for the priests to bless the people of Israel, so this passage is often called the "Priestly Blessing" or "Aaronic Benediction." It's like the Old Testament's version of a benediction.

The word translated as "peace" at the end is the Hebrew word "Shalom." When God commands His priests to say this blessing, He is not simply wishing the people to avoid conflict; He is praying for their lives to be whole before God, where everything is in harmony because of His presence.

#6 Shalom

"Shalom" is also a common greeting among Jewish people. But shalom means much more than just hello. Its basic meaning is peace, but not just a simple peace of mind. It carries a much deeper sense of wholeness, harmony, and well-being. So, shalom is like a whole package of peace, well-being, and blessings all wrapped up into one powerful word. Now, let's dig a little deeper into the meaning of this word.

1) Wholeness

"And when you have crossed the Jordan, set up these stones on Mount Ebal, as I command you today,... Build there an altar to the Lord your God, an altar of stones. Do not use any iron tool on them. Build the altar of the Lord your God with fieldstones and offer burnt offerings on it to the Lord your God." (Deut. 27:4–6)

#7 Shalom

God instructed the Israelites to set up stones as a memorial after crossing the Jordan River. But these stones were to be untouched by iron tools—they had to remain in their natural, uncut state.

Here, the word used for fieldstones in the Hebrew is a compound of two words: shalem (שְׁלֵם) and eben (אֶבֶן)

The word shalem means complete, perfect, whole, or full, and eben means stone. So the altar was to be built with stones that were whole and unbroken, reflecting a state of natural completeness.

This concept of Shalem is closely related to shalom. Shalom means wholeness. To have shalom in our lives means that our lives are brought into a state of completeness in God.

#8 Shalom

"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Heb 13:20–21)

When the peace of God dwells within us, we are made complete and equipped to do everything He has called us to do. That is what Jesus came to give us. Through the blood of His eternal covenant, He saved us from our sins and restored our relationship with God—so that we could live in His wholeness.

This is the deep meaning of shalom—not just emotional calm, but the complete restoration of our lives under God's almighty hand and gracious care.

#9 Shalom

2) Harmony, Restoration of Relationship

This brings us to the second aspect of shalom which is harmony, and the restoration of relationship.

Shalom is not just personal and internal peace. It refers to the restoration of a right relationship with God. When the relationship between God and humanity was broken, peace was lost.

But even after humanity rebelled against Him, God graciously pursued us, offering His presence once again—and within that presence, shalom is found.

"I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants… Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other." (Psalm 85:8–10)

"Righteousness and peace kiss each other". This is more than just beautiful language, it reflects a deeply theological truth. It shows us how righteousness and peace come together in God's redemptive plan.

#10 Shalom

Here, righteousness is not just a legal term, it's relational. God is righteous. So, in order for us to be restored to a right relationship with Him, we too must be made righteous.

Peace only comes from righteousness. Where sin exists, there is brokenness, fear, and judgment. But where righteousness exists, there is unity, joy, and peace.

This is the righteousness and peace Jesus came to give.

"God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus." (Rm 3:25-26)

Here, we see what God has done to make us righteous. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, as an atoning sacrifice to pay the price for our sin.

#11 Shalom

And for those who are made righteous through faith in Jesus Christ, the first blessing given is this: the restoration of our relationship with God, reconciliation, and peace—a deep, abiding peace that we enjoy in the presence of God Himself.

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rm 5:1)

In all of this, we see the fulfillment of Psalm 85, the righteousness that Christ gives us has kissed the peace that God promises us. That is why Jesus is called the Prince of Peace.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace... He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever." (Is 9:6-7)

#12 Shalom

The Old Testament foretold that true Shalom—the complete restoration of peace—would come through the Messiah. And this prophecy has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He carried our sins and reconciled us to God, so that in Him, we can become a people who live in Shalom.

This peace is not like the world gives. The world's peace is temporary, unstable, and conditional. But the peace that Jesus gives is eternally secure and unconditional, because it flows from His unfailing love and care for us.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

May this peace rest deeply in each of our hearts. May the peace of the risen Lord drive out every fear in our lives. And may we be made whole in the righteousness He gives and in the peace that comes from being reconciled with God.

#13 Shalom

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." (Col 3:15)

Memory Verses

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"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Nm 6:24-26) (1)

"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus.... equip you with everything good for doing his will" (Heb 13:20–21) (1)

"I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people... Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other." (Ps 85:8–10) (1)

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"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace... He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever." (Is 9:6-7) (2)

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27) (1)

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." (Col 3:15) (1)

Reflection Questions

1. Do you sense the peace of God—Shalom—in your life now? How is the peace God offers us through Christ different from the peace the world offers? How has it shaped your life, and in what ways does that peace show itself in your daily walk with God?

2. What does the phrase "righteousness and peace kiss each other" (Psalm 85:10) mean to you personally? How are righteousness and peace connected in your own life?

3. What worries or fears are troubling your heart now? How can you surrender those anxieties to the peace of Christ today?