

Is Living at Peace Really Possible?

Series: Following Jesus: Biblical Life Management

Isaiah 48:17-18 (0906)

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Isaiah 48:17-18 ¹⁷*This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. ¹⁸If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea.*

I. Three dimensions of peace

a. Peace with God

Luke 2:14 ¹⁴*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”*

TM *Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.*

Luke 12:51 ⁵¹*Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.*

TM *Do you think I came to smooth things over and make everything nice? Not so. I've come to disrupt and confront!*

Colossians 1:19-20 ¹⁹*For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in [Christ], ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things... by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

b. Peace with others

Romans 12:18 ¹⁸*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

c. Peace with yourself

Isaiah 32:17 ¹⁷*The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.*

Isaiah 48:18 ¹⁸*If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea.*

II. The need for vigilance in maintaining peace

a. The things that would rob us of peace are often subtle

b. Three telling questions evaluating focus

Matthew 6:21 NLT ²¹*Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.*

Matthew 6:24 ²⁴*“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.*

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