2021 09 19 Peacemakers Planting in Peace.

Proverbs 31:10-31.. Psalm 1. James 3:13-4:3. 7-8a. Mark 9:30-37.

Pacemakers are mechanical devices that keep you alive by making your heart beat – to fast – zap it slows it down, to slow – no problem – zap it speeds it up. Stopped – zap – maybe it starts it beating again – maybe not

As pacemakers make a life-or-death difference to us - add - one letter - “e” - and you have ‘peacemakers’ and they make the difference between life and death in this world and in eternity.

 “Having our feet shod with the gospel of peace.”[[1]](#footnote-1) is one of the weapons – in what we call the “armour of the Christian soldiers.” Maybe not weapons, but an item of clothing, – attitude, the soul of our lives and motivation – ‘the gospel of peace’ -

The centre of a peacemaker is a knowing that they are safe in their soul, that Gods Spirit breathed life into,. What do we know - we know that we belong to Gods family in Jesus our Saviour?

To me the basis of being at peace is knowing, trusting that God will work out all things to follow where and when God wants them to. Even our failures and slow-nesses will be worked into God’s plan; to the aim of bring peace for us and others with God.

What is peace? a certainty, a quietness of soul, a knowing – a trust.

Peacemakers have a certain way about them[[2]](#footnote-2) they do not guide their lives by the advice of people who do not follow God. They are positive and not scornful about people but see them as lost children of God.

Their attitude is one of trust in Gods overriding goodness “your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Gods’ ways – what we call ‘the fruit of the Spirit’ are always in them and is growing. God’s ways are always in our minds and choices even when our feelings need to catch up. These people will settle more and more into God’s peace and company. V3.

Luke 24;45 Ps 119;18 Mt 13;11, 11;25, 26 . 1 Cor 2;12. Rom 11;33,34,36, Ps 139;17.

Peacemakers will show themselves in humility and an attitude of goodness, will look at their motives and see if they are living with two faces - living a lie. If our motives are for to gain recognition or to cover a hurt inside ourselves, we will bring this before God in an attitude of repentance, sorrow, yet not despair.

With the hurts, the perceived inadequacies in us we do not need to cover them by works or anything but to ask God! James writes that we do not have the comfort that we need, the comfort/peace which will flow out to others because we do not ask God. To be at peace and to plant peace with God in those around us we can submit to God. Resist the devil who knows us well, draw near to God and God will show Himself in us and in our situation, we are to “live the belief.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

Again, in Mark our Lord Jesus impresses on us that we must be humble – not wanting power and possessions and praise (the three “P”s for ourselves but to simply be – as a child whose needs for love, security and food are meet is trusting and confident.

The reinforcement of Jesus words, what He says next could be terrifying: “what you do for/to one of these little ones you do for/to me.” Jesus takes it very personally – and this , I believe, applies to new believers just as much as to children. When Saul/Paul was struck down by Jesus on his way to Damascus Jesus said to him “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute ME!” (a statement! Not a ?). Paul was chasing down believers, arresting, torturing and killing them – Jesus took it very personally. Saul cried out “who are you Lord – “I AM Jesus whom you are persecuting!”[[4]](#footnote-4)

After seeing Jesus with the children and hearing his words how then could the disciples whom Jesus was walking with and talking to not understand and go straight back to a conversation of pride and “who will be the most powerful in this new kingdom on earth that they though Jesus was going to bring to power?” Pride and power are the enemies of peace with God , self and other people. Thankfulness in a job well done is a blessing from God. For it is **God** which works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.[[5]](#footnote-5)

The people who believed in Jesus came to life in the reality of God’s gift of His Holy Spirit, His Presence whom he poured out at Pentecost - they became very different men and women.

I do not know the original language, but I read that it had past, present, future and *‘present continuous’ verbs.*

The pouring out of God’s Presence is, I believe ‘present continuos’ - it has never stopped – we are energised, find peace, made bold every moment of every day, if we open up.

I am not taking about a one-time special happening; I am talking about our living in the peace of God and spreading that peace – being renew moment by moment.

Let us dance!!!!!

Song “May you live to walk on your own grave” by Garth Hewett.

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Psalm 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. James 3:7. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Acts: [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Phillipians 2:13 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)