

11 December 2016 - Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 35:1–10; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11.

INTRO: *Most peaceful mountain*– Isaiah 2:4, “He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”



I. PEACE WITH GOD.

Isaiah 2:4, “He will judge...” “Who’s ‘he’?”

2 Tim. 4:1, “Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead.”

Nicene Creed: “We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ... He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.”

John 3:17, “God did **not** send his Son into the world **to condemn** the world, **but to save the world through him.**”

Luther: “whereas before the ‘justice of God’ had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love.”



II. PEACE WITH OTHERS.

Isaiah 2:4, “He will... **settle disputes for many peoples.**”

Ephesians 2:14, “**He (Christ) himself is our peace,** who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making **peace.**”



We affirm Yeshua founded a new community, embracing both Jews and Gentiles on an equal footing, giving His body the task of spreading the gospel. We deny that God has replaced the Jewish people with the “Church” as the New Israel, but rather that Gentile believers share together, through faith in Yeshua, in the promises that God gave the Jewish people.

Cf. Peace with ourselves. Sometimes we need help. Andrew Hastie.



III. PEACE WITH THE WORLD.

A. First of all, expect some resistance.

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

John 14:27, “**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 16:33**, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have **peace**. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

B. Second, learn how to steward and wait for peace.

Luke 10:5-6, “When you enter a house, first say, ‘**Peace** to this house.’ If someone who promotes **peace** is there, **your peace** will rest on them; **if not, it will return to you.**”

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

C. Third, learn how to fight for peace.

Isaiah 2:4, “Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will **they train for war** anymore.” Cf. “Blessed are the peacemakers...”

2 Corinthians 10:4-5, “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. **On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds**. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and **we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**”

Mark 4:39, “He woke up and **rebuked the wind**, and said to the sea, ‘**Peace! Be still!**’ Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.”

CONCLUSION: “What’s it worth?” Everything. **Philippians 4:7**, “the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Let it be so, in Jesus’ name. Amen. – Aldi ☺