

Cornerstone's Sermon Conversation Guide

July 11, 2010/Curt Leininger

Mah Shalomkah? How's Your Peace?

Numbers 6:22-27, Luke 24: 50-51, Ephesians 1:3



How's your peace? Has running through the streets of your "Pamplona" emptied you of the fruit of peace? Peace (completeness, wholeness of well-being) is found in God's name being invoked on us, and not from the many things that are running through out streets along with us. God is bending his knee (blessing) toward us. He is protecting and guarding (keeping) our very lives. He is completely attentive to our situation (face shining on us). He is extending favor and joy to us (gracious). He is not angry with us. There is no scowl on his face (turn his face toward you). He does make us complete and whole (peace). All of this is extended to you and I through our high priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. And, we, too, are being built together as priests in God's temple here on earth, the Universal Church. Not only is God's name being invoked on us through Jesus Christ, but we have the opportunity to invoke God's name on each other. We can move away from trying to find peace in the things and people around us to finding peace in the One who truly gives. And, we can now invoke God's name peacefully on all others instead of invoking pressure for them to perform and act to make us whole and complete. It's a beautiful exchange!

Peaceful living begins and endures by taking a humble stance and being completely aware of our incredible need. We are needy individuals. We are a needy community. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can meet that need. Unless we live into that humble stance, our tendency will be to live into a stance of self-righteousness where our inner lawyer is constantly at work pointing the finger and trying to pressure others to see everything from our perspective.

How's your peace? How's your well-being? This is so drastically different from "how are you doing?" What does this tell us about ourselves? How has doing been emphasized so much more than being?

Target some noise and/or activity in your life right now that is keeps you from allowing peace to be grown in your life? What is it about that noise or activity that keeps you longing for it to happen in your way and time?

Which aspect of the priestly blessing speaking about God's stance toward you found in Numbers 6:22-27 do you need to remind yourself of in this day?

Sure ...you probably recognize yourself as a needy individual. But, do you think you need to grow in your understanding of seeing yourself as an even more needy person? What keeps you from admitting your incredible need? What are the consequences when you don't live into the reality of your incredible need?

Our incredible neediness is met in Jesus Christ. What does his life teach us about peace growing in our own lives? How was Jesus able to consistently invoke God's name on other people without pressuring them into his own agenda?

What else has this teaching stirred up in you that you need to work out with others?

What area of life is God inviting you to move forward in so he can reveal himself to you in a deeper way? What else might God be speaking to you through this story? What do you think God might be trying to affirm in you about who you are as his child through this story? What step of action is God calling you to take this week?