

### Introduction

1. One of my all-time favorite verses is Isaiah 26:3. (**Show**)<sup>1</sup> Let's read it together.
  - a. In the Bible the superlative of something is often expressed by doubling the word.
  - b. **Perfect peace = peace, peace**, a double portion of peace for those who meet 2 conditions.
    - i. Our mind must be fixed upon the Lord, firmly established upon Him.
    - ii. We must trust in Him, committing ourselves & our way to Him walking by faith.
  - c. When we do those things we can have peace, peace, double peace, perfect peace.
  - d. ***The deepest want of man is not a desire for happiness, but a craving for peace; not a wish for the gratification of every desire, but a craving for the repose of [submission] in the will of God: and it is this which Christianity promises. Christianity does not promise happiness, but it does promise peace.***<sup>2</sup>
  - e. How helpful? Christianity does not promise happiness; it does promise peace.
  - f. **Peace = shalom = spiritual well-being from a right relationship with God.**<sup>3</sup>
  - g. Beats happiness any day because we can have peace even when events are not happy.
2. Today Jesus teaches us how to have peace. (**Title/Text**) 2 things: basis/application of peace.
  - I. **The basis for our peace, vv. 25-28.**
    - A. **The Father Loves His Children, vv. 25-27.**
      1. There were many things about God & His salvation disciples could not understand.
        - a. So Jesus used **figures of speech = veiled sayings...obscure language.**<sup>4</sup>
        - b. When He did tell them plainly He would die/rise again, they didn't get it, Mark 8:31.
        - c. In fact, Peter rebuked Jesus. Remember? **This never happen to you.** Matt. 16:22.
        - d. So Jesus resorted to teaching them cryptically in figures. **Little while** in 16:16. **????!!**
      2. Do you know there are some things you just can't understand until been thru them?
        - a. Read all books want on marriage, but never know challenges of marriage til married.
        - b. Read all books want on parenting, but never know it's your hardest job 'til have child.
        - c. (Ellen & I thot we'd be the perfect parents. Now I think the perfect imperfect parents!)
      3. When Jesus said, **I will build my church** & Peter, you will be a key part of it.
        - a. Did Peter have anyway of understanding the Day of Pentecost & beginning of Church?
        - b. Fathom he would preach a sermon w/3000 saved & worldwide Church would begin?
        - c. How understand w/o crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, send HS, Grt Commission?
        - d. No way could he understand a simple statement, **I will build my Church**, Matt. 16:18.
      4. 1 thing disciples not understand was God's love & access would have to Him, vv. 26-27.
        - a. How do you understand the love of God w/o the cross? Right? When I say →
          - i. **I asked Jesus, "How much do you love me?" And Jesus said, "This much."**
          - ii. **Then He stretched out His arms and died.**<sup>5</sup> We understand. Know cross.
        - b. But to the disciples the cross was the greatest tragedy they had ever seen.
        - c. No way understand cross til after resurrection. No way explain cross til sending HS.
      5. Look at what the cross/resurrection teach us. **In that day** = cross/resurrection/ascen, etc.
        - a. **We have unrestricted access to the Father in prayer, v. 26.**

<sup>1</sup> <http://knowing-jesus.com/wp-content/uploads/Isaiah-26-3-Perfect-Peace-yellow-copy.jpg>. Accessed 3/5/16.

<sup>2</sup> "Promised Peace," *Disciple Magazine*. <http://sermonhall.com/www/sermon/0.12434>. Accessed 3/3/16.

<sup>3</sup> Boice, J. M. (2005). *The Gospel of John: an expositional commentary* (p. 1155). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

<sup>4</sup> Biblical Studies Press. (2005). *The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; NET Bible*. Biblical Studies Press.

<sup>5</sup> Unknown. <http://livingforjesus.com/i-asked-jesus-how-much-do-you-love-me/>. Accessed 3/5/16.

- i. Because Jesus' intercedes for us we can go directly to God w/our requests.
- ii. We don't need to give Jesus our requests 1<sup>st</sup> & then He presents them. Rom. 5:2:
- iii. Thru Jesus we have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand.
- b. ***We have the fatherly love of the Father constantly supplying our needs, v. 27a.***
  - i. The love that Jesus mentions here is the special love God has for believers.
  - ii. It's the love after we are saved because we now belong to God as His children.
  - iii. Man asked father of 4, Why do love your kids? Dad thot & then, Because mine.<sup>6</sup>
  - iv. Can you think of any other answer? God loves us because we are now His.
- c. ***We are accepted by the Father as much as He accepts His own Son Jesus, v. 27a.***
  - i. Remember how Jesus said this earlier, Jn. 14:21, 23; 15:9-10.
  - ii. Our love/faith in Jesus has brought us into a circle of love that includes the Father.
  - iii. He has made us accepted in the beloved one, Ephesians 1:6. Why is this true?

#### B. The Son Secured Our Salvation, v. 28.

1. Summary verse of entire Gospel of John. Summarizes Jesus entire mission.<sup>7</sup>
2. This is ***Our Salvation – 4 Stages (How God Saves Us).***<sup>8</sup> (Show)
  - a. V. 28a = incarnation; v. 28b = crucifixion/resurrection; v. 28c = ascension
  - b. This is why the Father loves us as His children. Jesus has completed the mission.
  - c. Secured salvation by becoming one of us, dying for us, rising on our behalf.
  - d. Now ascended back to the Father where ***we have an advocate w/Father. 1 Jn. 2:1-2.***
3. **So dear, so vry dear to God, More dear I cannot be; The love wherewith He loves His Son, Such is His love to me. So near, so very near to God, Nearer I could not be, For in person of His Son, I am as near as He.**<sup>9</sup>
4. ***We are as dear to the heart of the Father as His own holy, spotless Son.***<sup>10</sup> Quote Rom.5:1.

## II. **The application of our peace, vv. 29-33.**

### A. The Father's Faithfulness Keeps Us Saved, vv. 29-32.

1. Vv. 29-30 are two of the most amusing verses in the Bible. If like humor, here it is.
  - a. Disciples believe. Great! But they think their faith is mature. Think it's all clear.
  - b. They don't think need ask any questions, v. 30? They think they got it? All of it?
  - c. How many of you think they got it? Jesus didn't either, v. 31. Add "***really***" to v. 31.
2. Then Jesus drops the bombshell, v. 32. Their faith is so weak they will all abandon Him.
  - a. This = dramatic irony. They believe in Jesus origin; but don't know what means for Him.
  - b. What they claim they believe about Him will fail in the hour of testing shortly to come.
  - c. Once again the disciples did not know themselves, did they? They were overconfident.
3. **Big Lesson:** Founding members of the Church were discredited men w/o courage.<sup>11</sup>
  - a. Shortly filled w/cowardice & fear. Someone else has called them weak & needy men.<sup>12</sup>
  - b. Doesn't that sound like us? I've been pastor for 32yrs now. Know what concluded?

<sup>6</sup> "God's Love." Michael P. Green. (2000). *1500 illustrations for biblical preaching* (p. 169). Grand Rapids: Baker Books.

<sup>7</sup> Newman, B. M., & Nida, E. A. (1993). *A handbook on the Gospel of John* (p. 518). New York: United Bible Societies.

<sup>8</sup> [http://images.slideplayer.com/9/2517259/slides/slide\\_11.jpg](http://images.slideplayer.com/9/2517259/slides/slide_11.jpg). Accessed 3/6/16.

<sup>9</sup> Catesby Paget. <http://www.wholesomewords.org/devotion4.html>. No. 27. Accessed 3/5/16.

<sup>10</sup> H.A. Ironside. "Dear to God," Galaxie Software. (2002). *10,000 Sermon Illustrations*. Biblical Studies Press.

<sup>11</sup> Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (pp. 548–549). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

<sup>12</sup> Fredrikson, R. L., & Ogilvie, L. J. (1985). *John* (Vol. 27, pp. 240–241). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc.

- c. Church is filled w/weak and needy men/women. I often feel the weakest of them all.
  - d. When think of sins haven't committed realize not faced same temptations as others.
  - e. If asked me what I'd do in the face of a certain temptation, all I could honestly say is →
    - i. *I hope I wouldn't sin. I hope so. But I wouldn't really know until I was tested.*
    - ii. *Until that testing may come I can only pray, "Lord, lead me not into temptation."*
  - f. *God has not made me a rich man. He knew He couldn't trust me.*<sup>13</sup> *Knew weak.*
4. That's why so helpful to read *I am not alone, for the Father is with me, v. 32.* **Peace!!**
- a. The Church is not founded upon fickle people, but on a faithful Father.<sup>14</sup>
  - b. *The glue of Christianity is not the disciples; it is Jesus.*<sup>15</sup> He promised Jn. 14:18; 16:22.
5. The same faithfulness that kept them is the same faithfulness that will keep us.
- a. We have failed, do fail, & may fail again. How can we have peace? God does not fail.
  - b. *1 Peter 1:5: we are kept by the power of God thru faith for salvation ready revealed.*
  - c. *Jude 24: He is able to keep you from stumbling & present you blameless before Him.*
- B. *The Son's Victory Makes Us Brave, v. 33.*
1. Isn't this encouraging? After their failure Jesus restored all eleven of them.
    - a. How many times has Jesus forgiven and restored me? You? More than can count.
    - b. Then Jesus delivers the bad news. *Tribulation = pressure.* Pressure is coming.
    - c. But the good news is that at the cross/resurrection Jesus defeated Satan/world.
    - d. Every believer is in Him (*in me*) and we share His victory over the world.
    - e. We can say with the Apostle Paul the famous words of Romans 8:38-39. (*Show*)<sup>16</sup>
    - f. *In all these things we are more than conquerors thru him who loved us, Rom. 8:37.*
  2. When I was a kid I ran from bullies. I was only 135lbs when graduated from high school.
    - a. But if I would've known no matter what they did to me, I would prevail against them.
    - b. I would have been braver. But I didn't know that, so I ran and lived in fear.
  3. But as believers we do know Jesus' victory is our victory. Don't need run or live in fear.
  4. One of the Christians who has taught us a lot about bravery is *Brother Andrew.*<sup>17</sup> (*Show*)
    - a. Yrs-ago planning smuggle Bibles into China. Sent Joseph, Chinese team member.
    - b. Met with 5 Chinese house-church leaders. Know how much space 1mil. Bibles takes?
    - c. Are you aware of the risk if you are caught w/just portion of these Bibles.
    - d. *Joseph, all five of us have been in prison for the Lord, they replied. All together, we've spent seventy-two years in jail for Jesus. We are willing to die if it means that a million brothers and sisters can have a copy of God's word.*<sup>18</sup>
    - e. *But God is never defeated. Though He may be opposed, attacked, resisted, still the ultimate outcome can never be in doubt. Every day we see fresh proof that indeed all things – even evil ones – work together for those who are called by His name.*<sup>19</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Pastor J. Vernon McGee said that in comments on *Thru the Bible* radio broadcast.

<sup>14</sup> Carson, op. cit., p. 549.

<sup>15</sup> Borchert, G. L. (2002). *John 12–21* (Vol. 25B, p. 181). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>16</sup> [http://40.media.tumblr.com/9b08925e7b002c001dbed7c67ec9ac30/tumblr\\_ns3zhy6Xh41tzbpho1\\_1280.jpg](http://40.media.tumblr.com/9b08925e7b002c001dbed7c67ec9ac30/tumblr_ns3zhy6Xh41tzbpho1_1280.jpg). 3/5/16.

<sup>17</sup> <https://i.ytimg.com/vi/259lzOS3KrA/maxresdefault.jpg>. Accessed 3/5/16.

<sup>18</sup> Brother Andrew, "The Calling." Larson, C. B. (2002). *750 engaging illustrations for preachers, teachers & writers* (pp. 395–396). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

<sup>19</sup> Brother Andrew. <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/564x/2e/c4/56/2ec456d42b39d89bec883e4c0d417316.jpg>. Accessed 3/5/16.