

# Episode 63

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*As Jesus approached and saw the city, he wept for it, saying, "If you knew this day what would bring peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes."  
– Luke 19:41-42*

2000 years later and we still don't seem to know what will bring us peace.

In the New Testament, "peace" is used to describe two extremely rich and weighty biblical themes. The first is more familiar to us, and it means to be in a position where one feels safe, secure and prosperous. This week, in praying for peace in our land, this would essentially encompass all that we were crying out to God for. The second theme wrapped around the word "peace," is the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, therefore fearing nothing from God, enjoying full access to the Father, content with one's earthly lot, whatsoever sort that is.

Now before we raise a hallelujah in agreement, let's ask the question, "why then do we not know peace?"

Sinclair Ferguson traces the answer back to the "lie of Satan" in the garden of Eden, namely, that you can't trust the goodness of God or his commitment to our well-being, and therefore, if we entrust ourselves to God fully, we'll miss out and be miserable.

He then explains that when we struggle to believe in the love and graciousness of God, we assume that when situations and circumstances don't work out according to our understanding and our plans, that this is clear evidence that God is not good, at least not to us. We see the wisdom of God and the ways of God as something imposed on us by one whose love is conditional and who is unwilling to bless us unless we do quite a lot of work. The religious wearily assumes the burden of suffering under the iron will of God, while the rebel refuses it by insisting that if God is really loving, he would do it my way.

From the garden of Eden to the garden of Gethsemane, this rings true in so many ways. I find this showing up most clearly in my prayer life, where so often my faith rests in the results, namely both the answer to my prayers and their conditions, rather than in the goodness and trustworthiness of God. It's a tough pill to swallow but it has deeply challenged my view of circumstances, prayer, provision, and most of all, the goodness of God.

Peace - noun // The tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, therefore fearing nothing from God, enjoying full access to the Father, content with one's earthly lot, whatsoever sort that is.

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