

Jesus is the Source of... Peace
Matthew 9:18-26

When we are sick, we want to be made well. When we are in pain, we want it to go away. In times of suffering, sorrow, and grief, we want relief. If we could cry, we would. Many times we do. When we are in need, we want help. This is an instinctive part of our normal human nature. We know when things are wrong and we seek to make things right, both for ourselves and for others.

As Matthew's gospel goes on, Jesus continues to gain popularity not only as a great teacher, not only as a miracle worker, but also as the coming Messiah. "Have mercy on us, Son of David," is what the two blind men cried out. In their state of need, they found hope in the promise of the coming Messiah and in the peace he would bring to the world. Such a promise is recorded in Isaiah 53:1-10. With such a promise that Isaiah talked about, it is no wonder people flocked around Jesus when they began to hear of the wondrous things he had done. And not just those of physical ailments, but also those who were oppressed by life. They were looking for answers to the things which they felt were wrong in their lives. These are the same people he spoke to during the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:3-10. People needed hope... hope of all kinds.

Those during Jesus' day had read and had been taught for many years that the Messiah would, in the power of the Spirit of God, proclaim good news to the poor, bind up the hearts of the brokenhearted, proclaim freedom for the captives, and release many prisoners from the darkness of their prisons" (Isaiah 61:1-2). They were following Jesus for many reasons of their own, but yet for one hope, one last chance that he could do for them what no else could do and they could not do for themselves. They wanted peace for their lives. They wanted to feel the release that was promised them by God. They trusted and had faith they God would help them through his Messiah.

As in every other healing we have seen in Matthew's gospel, the only requirement was a measure of faith that Jesus could help them, heal them. He asked the blind men if they believed he could heal them. Their reply was "Yes," and then one touch healed them. Peace was restored to their lives. Another man was healed by the faith of those around him. Demon possession kept him

from speaking. Yet, just one touch and he was restored. Where once chaos reigned because of the unrest of Satan, peace was restored to this captive by Christ.

Satan told God in the book of Job that he roams around the world like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He is causing unrest in this world. That is why there is hurt in the world. That is why there is pain. That is why we are tempted by the devil and why we are often succumbed to his advances. But God has promised that this way of the world will not last forever according to Isaiah 11:6-9.

Child of God, I have a message for you. God wants to pronounce peace in your life. He wants to pronounce peace in lives of your family. He wants to pronounce peace in the church. Child, do not blame God for the unrest in this world. Do not blame him for the unrest in your life. God offered man perfection and we chose sin, disorder. We choose sin everyday over the ways of God. That is what causes unrest in our lives, but God has offered us peace, he has offered us protection. Satan can cause pain all around us and to us, but like Job, he cannot harm our soul. When we are in Christ, God guards our souls with his Spirit. So then, even when the world is closing in around us, even when there is unrest and we are crying out for mercy, we can find the peace that passes all understanding for Satan may be able to harm our body but he cannot harm our soul!

Psalm 29:11 (NIV) tells us, "The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace." If you are struggling today and you are in need of strength to endure and peace to put your soul at rest, call out to Jesus for mercy in faith and he will come to you. Are you or someone you love oppressed? Jesus will come.