



“True Peace”  
Luke 19:28-48

**Idea:** God offers true peace through Jesus to people who faith into Him, seek His Lordship, and listen to His Word.

**Intro:** Hardly anything is as fragile as peace. Windows are broken with a rock, but peace between two people can be broken with as little as a look or a word. War can erupt between two nations over one simple action.

There are nations all around the globe who have not known peace for generations. This is true of Israelis, Palestinians, Afghanis, and the Sudanese. In some of these civil wars, the reason for the fighting has long been forgotten, but the battle continues.

There are local communities all over the United States that long for peace. Cities like Chicago, New York City, Washington D.C., and sometimes our own Richmond are filled with violence and theft. The citizens are fearful and distrusting. They are worried that being in the wrong place or giving someone the wrong look might result in their harm or even death.

Marriages, families and individuals also struggle to find peace. Many marriages are filled with conflict. Parents and children are at odds with one another. And there seems to be a deep-seated unsettledness and discontentment within people. Their emotions are all over the place, and they are simply not sure how they feel about anything.

In each of these situations, there is the knowledge that peace is needed. People are dying and being hurt. In many of these situations, there is a desire for peace because people recognize the destruction taking place. The problem, however, rests on how the needed peace is achieved.

Perhaps, this description resonates with you. As you sit in this room for worship, you feel like you are being pulled in different directions. Your emotions are out of control. Conflict seems to follow you. And a sense of peace is nowhere to be found. Well, I have good news for you. Your condition is normal but fixable. You suffer from what the Bible describes as brokenness, which is caused by sin. The brokenness you feel puts you at odds with God and with others. God, nevertheless, wants to change your life. He offers true peace through Jesus to people who faith into Him, seek His Lordship, and listen to His Word. Sadly, not everyone will take the Lord up on His offer. As Thomas à Kempis said, “All men desire peace, but very few desire those things that make for peace.”

**Inquiry:** As we have worked our way through Luke’s Gospel, we have seen many restless people bump into Jesus. Sketchy shepherds, searching wise men, sick men, sad moms, sightless beggars, supposing children, and

suspicious religious leaders all found themselves in the presence of the Lord. Each was broken by sin. Each was battling their own inward and outward conflicts. Each was in rebellion against God and experienced the ramifications of that war. Their restlessness was the result of their sin, and Jesus' purpose for coming was to remove that sin and restore broken people back to God the Father (19:10). At this point in Luke's Gospel, many broken people have found peace with God through Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, many broken people have also rejected Him and continued in their restlessness.

Jesus' mission moves forward. He and His disciples have been journeying toward Jerusalem since Luke 9:51. This excursion has taken nine months as Jesus purposefully zigzagged through Galilee, Samaria, Perea, and Judea. He has ministered in at least thirty-five localities. Now, they are just on the outskirts of the Holy City, having perfectly timed their arrival with the celebration of Passover. A cross and a tomb await Jesus in Jerusalem. He will become the fulfillment of the symbolism in the Passover Meal. As such, through His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus will secure true peace for broken sinners.

Read Luke 19:28-48.

Luke's Gospel presents an upside-down perspective of God's Kingdom. Jesus, as the King, brings peace on earth. The heavenly host declared this outside of Bethlehem (2:14). Typically, peace is secured by way of a sword, yet Jesus came not as a conquering King brandishing a sword. Instead, He was "*gentle and lowly of heart*" (Matt 11:29). He was meek and mild. Meekness, however, is not to be misunderstood as weakness. Rather, it is strength under control. Jesus came to "*seek and save the lost*" by laying down His life as a holy sacrifice for sin (19:10). The laying down of His life means that He was largely rejected by men, so peace on earth would be delayed. There could be and would be, however, peace in heaven. Jesus' sacrifice reconciles sinners with God the Father. The new life He offers sinners makes them right with God and works to make them right with other people. Lao Tse rightly said:

"If there is right in the soul, there will be beauty in the person. If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world."

True peace is what every person needs and desires. There are three things we learn about it from this text. True peace...

### **1. Is found in a Person.**

Everything in verses 28-40 hint of the peace found in Jesus Christ. For example, He is traveling to Jerusalem (vs. 28). Many times, cities are given nicknames that are indicative of who they are. Philadelphia is the "City of Brotherly Love." It is what the word means in Greek. I am not so sure the city lives up to its name. Detroit is known as "Motor City." Pittsburgh is the "Steel City." Well, the name Jerusalem literally means "Foundation of Peace."

There is another glaring hint of peace found in the donkey colt the disciples were sent to retrieve (vs. 30-34). The prophet Zechariah predicted that the true king of Israel would come to Jerusalem on a young, unbroken colt (Zech 9:9). The significance of this prophecy is seen in our understanding of history. When kings came to cities in times of war, they came on mighty warhorses. On the other hand, when kings came on a donkey, they were coming in peace.

Another hint of peace is seen in the praise offered to Jesus by the disciples as He descended the Mount of Olives (vs. 35-40). As they waved palm branches and praised Jesus through the Hallel Psalms (Psalms 113-118), they declared His kingship. Their words were in fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy. They discerned that His coming as King was connected to their peace.

Wherever Jesus goes, He ushers in peace. At His birth, He brings peace on earth. On the cross, He brings peace in heaven. As He descends the Mount of Olives, the King of peace enters the city of peace on a beast of peace. Today, if you need peace, I want you to see that true peace is found in a Person. It is found in Jesus Christ. There is a second thing we learn about true peace from this text.

## **2. Is elusive to the person refusing to seek it.**

When Jesus' eyes see the city of Jerusalem, they immediately fill with tears as He sobs over its condition (vs. 41). His heart melts for the city He loves. Rather than calling down a lightning strike or fiery hail to destroy it because of the people's rebellion, the Lord weeps. He does so because the gift He has come to bring them has eluded them.

While the knowledge of "*the things that make for peace*" were right in front of the Jews, they missed it (vs. 42). They had the Law and Prophets. They had the Temple. Instead of allowing those gifts to point them to the Lord, they sought out peace in their hearts and relationships from everything the world had to offer, but they refused to seek it from the only source that satisfies. They failed to recognize that God's presence is what produces peace. For this reason, their false sense of security would be removed when the city fell to an invading army and the Temple destroyed. Jesus' prophecy was fulfilled in 70 A.D. when Rome left no stone on another.

True peace is found in the Person of Jesus Christ. The peace He offers is elusive though. It can only be found by those who seek it. Today, if your soul is restless and troubled, if you cannot seem to find a sense of satisfaction, then stop looking for peace in things that cannot deliver. If you need true peace in your life, then seek and find it in Jesus Christ. There is a third thing we learn about true peace in this text.

## **3. Is maintained through prayerful dialogue.**

After entering Jerusalem, Jesus came to the Temple. Worshipers coming to the Temple were required to bring with them what was to be sacrificed. Most worshipers traveled to Jerusalem from their tribal areas, so they brought money to purchase the animals to be offered. There were many places to buy these animals, but the most convenient place was at the Temple. The monetary offerings were also required to be in the Jewish currency, so moneychangers were necessary to exchange people's money. So far, there is nothing wrong with these practices, but Ananias, the High Priest at the time, controlled this business in the Temple. The sale of the animals and the changing of the money was conducted with exorbitant charges. He and the other High Priests had been amassing great wealth from this religious scam for years. In addition, these transactions took place in the Court of the Gentiles. This was the only place where non-Jews could enter to pray and meditate. The business stations in this court occupied the space that was supposed to be allotted for Gentiles to have access to God.

Jesus violently confronted the priests' disregard for evangelism (vs. 45-46). The teachers of the Law and the mediators of the covenant had neglected God's Word and spurned His pursuit of their hearts. The religious leaders knew nothing of the true peace they claimed to personify. For this reason, Jesus blew up in the Court of the Gentiles.

In their blindness and anger, the chief priests sought to kill Jesus because of His words and actions (vs. 47). The attitude of their hearts and the action they sought display the hostility between them and God. They know nothing of true peace. Conversely, the common Jews were "*hanging on His words*" (vs. 48) as Jesus taught that week in the Temple. The lesson we learn is that true peace is maintained through prayerful dialogue with Jesus. The religious leaders failed to maintain that dialogue through studying the Word and prayer. They disconnected and walked away. Others, however, were listening and

believing what Jesus was teaching. They were spending time with Him. As a result, they experienced true peace.

True peace is found in the Person of Jesus Christ, but this peace is elusive to those who refuse to seek it. Today, if your soul is restless and troubled, then learn from those who hung on every word of Jesus as He taught in the Temple. Develop a prayerful dialogue with Him. Spend time reading and learning from His Word daily. Spend time on your knees in prayer daily. Spend time with His body weekly. This prayerful dialogue will maintain the Lord's peace in your life.

**Conclusion:** Peace is fragile, and conflict is hard to resolve. Therefore, most people have no peace and are constantly in conflict with themselves and with others. This reality was true on the day Jesus entered Jerusalem, and it is true for us today. True peace is what every person needs, and it is what every person desires. Thankfully, God offers true peace through Jesus to people who faith into Him, seek His Lordship, and listen to His Word.

Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem on a donkey. The King of peace entered the city of peace on a beast of peace to secure peace through the cross for you. His sacrifice made it possible for your brokenness to be made whole. Do you know peace? Are you at peace with yourselves, others, and the Lord? If not, then I encourage you to turn to Jesus in faith, surrender to His Lordship, and listen to His Word.