

Advent: Where is the Peace?//Isaiah 26

Sermon date 11/26/2023

Get To Know You

1) When have you experienced peace? What were the circumstances? How would you describe how it felt?

Unpack It

What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon and why? What was a takeaway or something that left you wondering about?

Diving In

Read together: Isaiah 26

Diving Deeper (choose 4 of the following questions for small group discussion)

- 1) Verse one begins with the words "we have a strong city; he sets up salvation." Given that cities during the time of Isaiah rose and fell despite even the most advanced fortified walls, ramparts and armies, why could the faithful Israelite boast in having a "strong city?" How do you personally discern God's will in your life? What is your process? Additionally, do you ever "get it wrong?" If so, how do you rectify it?
- 2) Here we find the words "righteous nation." Given that every nation has percentage of unrighteous people (unbelievers), what type of nation could Isaiah be referring to? What is godly righteousness? Name the spiritual gifts identified in Scripture.
- 3) Define "perfect peace." How is peace perfected for the believer?
- 4) In a world where there is so much confusion, chaos and disorder it hardly seems likely that there is a "level" path for the righteous person. Too often we question our decisions, what the future will bring, even our own existence. When suffering is at its peak, people will ask "Lord, why am I even here?" But the Word of God is clear. There is a "level path" for the righteous made so by God. In what way is the way of the righteous clear and level?
- 5) Verses 12-15: Here again we see the word "nation." Based on our reading of verse 1, what is the nation?
- 6) Verses 16-18: These verses portray the suffering and strivings of man with no results. "We have given birth to wind" conveys the idea of painful struggle for no gain; it's like the woman in the pangs of child birth only to give birth to nothing (wind). This is supported by the cry "we have accomplished no deliverance in the earth." Israel had tried living apart from God's Word and statutes and in the end it got them nowhere. Chasing after false idols and gods produced a sinful land

destined for exile by foreign powers. What does this tell us about the power of man to bring salvation unto himself?

Closing It Out

- 7) Do you need peace in this season? Share and pray with each other for needs for your yourself, your friends and family that need the peace that Jesus gives.

Keeping It Going

Read Galatians 5:22-23. Each day this week pray for a specific fruit not just for yourself but for your family. Each day pray for Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.