



WATCH Peace Part 1

- We are all hoping for peace...
 - “Out there”
 - “In here”
 - “Between us”
- Shalom is the Bible’s word for real peace- wholeness, harmony, completeness, prosperity, welfare, tranquillity, safety.
- But is lasting peace only a pipe dream?



DISCUSS

We’ve heard about some different ways in which we might be hoping for peace. But what about you? How do you think we find peace?



WATCH Peace Part 2

- We all want peace; but the problem is that we all want peace on our terms. We say, “My life, my rules”.
- The problem is not just “horizontal”. We lack peace on a “vertical” level, between ourselves and our Creator. Instead of saying, “Your world, your rules”, we say, “My life my rules”. The Bible calls this sin.
- This matters because God is a God of justice. So, God judges’ sin.
- But there is hope: a Prince of Peace- Jesus
- Jesus was arrested, put on trial, and sentenced to execution by crucifixion. As he was dying, he told the criminal next to him, “Today you will be with me in paradise “(Luke 23:43) Jesus offered him a place beyond death.
- How is this possible? Three steps to paradise: The criminal
 - 1) Acknowledges his wrongdoing
 - 2) Recognize Jesus as the King, and
 - 3) Cries out to Jesus for rescue.
- On the Cross Jesus absorbed God’s anger at sin. This is how he can offer us peace.
- If we take Jesus up on his offer, we can start enjoying peace “in here”, “between us” and, one day, “out there” too.



EXPLORE

1. **Where do you think our problem with peace comes from (if you think we have a problem at all)?**

Luke wants to show us that our problem is not just horizontal but vertical – and that as Jesus died, he was dealing with that lack of peace between us and God.

Read Luke 23:32-47

Luke records two supernatural events that happened while Jesus was on the cross. These were signs from God that pointed to what was happening vertically as Jesus died.

2. **What was the first supernatural event, recorded in verses 44-45a? What does that suggest was happening vertically as Jesus died on the cross?**

CASTING LOTS | A way of making decisions randomly (similar to flipping a coin)

MESSIAH | A Greek word meaning “anointed one”; the King God had promised would rescue his people.

Centuries before, God had spoken through one of his prophets, named Amos. God announced how people could know that his judgement on humanity's sin and on their conflict with him had come: “In that day, declares the Sovereign Lord I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight” (Amos 8:9).

God had also told his people to build a “temple” in Jerusalem- a building where he would dwell among them. But, as part of the temple, he had instructed them to put a huge curtain at least 30 feet (9m) wide and 30 feet high. This curtain functioned as a “KEEP OUT” sign- the perfect God was present on one side of the curtain, and imperfect people could not pass through the curtain to be with him.

3. **Look what happened to the curtain in the second half of verse 45. What does the second supernatural event suggest Jesus’ is death had achieved?**



4. Jesus speaks three times in this passage. What does each tell us about him?

- Verse 34
- Verses 43
- Verse 46

5. in what ways did the various people around the three crosses respond to Jesus?

- “The people” (verse 35)
- the rulers (verse 35)
- the soldiers (verses 36-37)
- the centurion (verse 47)

6. which of those reactions best represents the way you're responding to Jesus at the moment?

7. On the night Jesus was arrested, his disciples had let him down, denied him and asserted him. Yet after Jesus had risen from death (Which we will be thinking about more in the next session) he greeted them with the words “peace be with you” (24:36).

- how did Jesus make peace possible by dying on the cross?
- how do you think it felt for the disabled to hear that greeting? What would it take for you to receive that same peace from Jesus today?

8. We've been thinking in this session about how the Babel claims that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, who came to fulfil our hope of peace. What has particularly struck you as you watched the films and looked at this part of Luke's gospel?