

## **The Power of Peace**

Series: Inbreaking: The Kingdom Come at Christmas

Luke 2:13-14; Matthew 14:22-33 (1728)

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### **I. What kind of peace does God bring in a troubled world?**

#### **a. Does the Bible tell us we can expect the world to live in peace?**

Luke 2:14 KJV *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

Luke 2:13-14 NIV *Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests".*

#### **b. What has Jesus actually promised us regarding world peace?**

Luke 12:51-52 NLT *<sup>51</sup> Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other! <sup>52</sup> From now on families will be split apart, three in favor of me, and two against—or two in favor and three against.*

C.S Lewis *God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself because it is not there. There is no such thing.*

#### **c. What has Jesus promised us regarding peace as his followers?**

John 14:27 NLT *I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.*

### **II. The power of peace in everyday life**

#### **a. The power of peace to enable us to take a risk**

Matthew 14:22-29a NLT *<sup>22</sup> Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. <sup>23</sup> After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. <sup>24</sup> Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. <sup>25</sup> About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" <sup>27</sup> But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here" <sup>28</sup> Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." <sup>29</sup> "Yes, come," Jesus said.*

C.S Lewis *When the whole world is running toward a cliff, he who is running in the opposite direction appears to have lost his mind.*

**b. The power of peace to enable us to accomplish extraordinary things**

Matthew 14:29b NLT *So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.*

C.S Lewis *You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you.... Only a real risk tests the reality of a belief.*

**c. The power of peace to lift us up when our faith falters**

Matthew 14:30a NLT <sup>30</sup> *But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink.*

Matthew 14:30b-31 NLT *"Save me, Lord!" he shouted.* <sup>31</sup> *Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"*

**d. The power of peace to move us to worship**

Matthew 14:32-33 NLT <sup>32</sup> *When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped.* <sup>33</sup> *Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.*