Peacekeeping or Peacemaking?

James 3:13-18

Introduction

* PRAY
* Peacekeeping vs. Peacemaking…
* What am I talking about?
  + Peacekeeping and peacemaking are two different things.
  + The ***peace keeper*** is someone who tries to avoid conflict and often ends up in deeper conflict.
    - Examples:
      * Divorce
      * Workplace – Quitting your job
    - That’s the problem with peace keeping
  + The ***peace maker*** is someone who has a view of the world where he or she takes into account that life always involves struggle, and to be a servant to Jesus in this world you’ve got to fight like you have never fought before.
    - These don’t seek out conflict, [not divisive], but
    - They biblically engage the conflict in front of them
* Two weeks:
  + First:
    - What it takes to be equipped to be Peacemakers, and…
    - Why will I need to be equipped?
      * Because Scripture calls us to engage others with truth
    - What it takes then…
      * Best described as: how do we stop living like orphans? People looking for peace as our savior
  + Second:
    - What does Peacemaking look like?
    - How do we engage this in a healthy way?
    - That’s next week

Message

* To start the process of equipping we need to understand who we are, and where we are
  + And what might be a good diagnostic?
  + Diagnostic: Joy?
    - That may sound strange but bear with me because
  + I have some Questions
    - What is it that brings you the most contentment and joy?
      * What?
      * Is it Jesus, or when your life is absent of conflict?
    - What most easily ruins your joy?
      * What?
    - What do you typically do when that happens?
      * What do you do?
      * If your first response it to try to change your circumstances, then likely Jesus isn’t a part of it
    - What has your Father intended to produce joy?
    - I’ll give you a hint: Joy is wrapped up in what you believe
  + (Galatians 4:4-7) “*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law,* ***5****to redeem those who were under the law,* ***so that*** *we might receive adoption as sons.* ***6****And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”* ***7So*** *you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God*.”
    - Sons and daughters…heirs…
    - Does this mean anything to you?
    - Is this a game-changer?
* What’s happened to your joy?
  + You are no longer a slave of circumstances and people, by the power of the Cross, [which alone deserves glory], because it alone can you change from being a slave, or an orphan, into a son or daughter.
  + Paul sees this, and asks a key question, in a practical way, from Galatians:
  + (Galatians 4:15a) “*What has happened to all your joy?*” [NIV]
  + He tells them who they are and then asks…
    - Sons and daughters of a Mighty King
    - Heirs to a kingdom that cannot be shaken
    - Where’s your joy?
    - If “A” is true, “B” shouldn’t happen
  + What has taken it away?
    - We’ll look at that in a second, but I want to tell you that…
    - Without being gospel-driven and gospel-centered
      * Or, Christ-driven, Christ-centered
    - We can’t engage in conflict with peace and certainty
    - In fact most often, we’ll run away or try to win. SO…
* What are some causes?
  + Most important – We don’t understand Peace is a person
    - Jesus IS Peace
    - (Ephesians 2:14) “*For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility*.”
    - Our peace is a person
      * This is the reason He’s sleeping in the back of the boat!
      * Not your spouse
      * Not your children
      * Not your job
      * Not your bank account
    - A person
  + We trivialize the gospel
    - Intellectual affirmation vs. belief
    - A People don’t live what they profess…
  + We don’t seek Scriptural truths about God’s promises: you’re a son or daughter
    - That’s where we need to fight
    - We live like the (Galatians 4:4-7) is for others
    - Fighting for joy is a command
      * (1 Timothy 6:12a) “*Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called..*.”
      * Does this sound passive???
      * (2 Corinthians 10:3) “*For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh*.”
      * Is warfare passive?
    - Where do you need to fight for joy?
    - If you’re not confident in the promises of God you cannot have the peace or make the peace God has for you.
  + We lack faith because we’re not honest
    - I’m really fearful
    - I’m afraid what happens if I confront that co-worker who’s stealing from the company
    - I’m afraid if I discipline my children they won’t like me
    - What is driving you today?
    - Retirement?
    - This isn’t my home…
    - Why I say we need to be honest is we didn’t just become this way over night
  + Parental sin patters
    - A lot of this stems from who we’ve always been
    - How am I still like my unhealthy household?
    - This is why it is so important for people to love in spite of, not because of…
  + Other things are at the center: theology, children…
    - I’m not going to go into those because I think you get the picture
    - Where is most of my time spent?
* So, I want to bring it back to: What do we really believe?
  + The gospel is this: *We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope*.
    - Ever dared to hope
    - That’s fighting is daring to hope that Jesus has done everything He said and will be everything He promised
  + The freedom grace offers is scary. We’re addicted to the Law and need control.
  + The gospel confronts the Pharisee in all of us. ***Jesus,*** confronts the Pharisee in all of us.
  + The gospel focuses on Jesus’ performance for us, not ours for Him. Disobedience and unbelief happen not when we think too much of grace, but too little.
    - And there is **NO** joy in earning anyone’s love
    - there is **NO** joy in earning anyone’s love
* I’ve said this before, but I’m pretty sure we can’t hear it enough…
  + Because…Jesus is strong, you can be weak
  + Jesus knows everything, you won’t have to
  + Jesus has succeeded, then you can free to fail
  + Jesus performance is enough to forever satisfy the Father, you don’t have to
  + Jesus has won you can loose
  + Because Jesus is extraordinary, you and I can be ordinary
  + But best of all
    - in Jesus, you have the Father’s full approval [not partial, not mostly], not a single thing He will ever condemn
    - because you have the Fathers FULL approval you need no one else’s
* That equips us and frees us to embark on a peace making mission
* PRAY