



HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY!

THANK YOU TO ALL THE GREAT  
DAD'S OUT THERE!



## Luke 15:20

<sup>20</sup> "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

## Prov. 23:22-24

<sup>22</sup> Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old. <sup>23</sup> Buy the truth, and do not sell *it*, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding. <sup>24</sup> The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise *child* will delight in him.

# GOD'S GIFT OF PEACE

This time in the world and especially in our country seems filled with fear, strife, and uncertainty.

Hopefully this lesson can be an encouragement to help you find some measure of peace.

## 1 Peter 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,<sup>7</sup> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

# ► Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear,  
Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of  
the sea; Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its  
swelling. Selah There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place  
of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God  
shall help her, just at the break of dawn. The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He  
uttered His voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our  
refuge. Selah Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has made desolations in the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;  
He burns the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the  
nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our  
refuge. Selah

- ▶ Sometimes it feels like our world is falling apart. But, even if the world were to give way, the Lord would still be our refuge and strength.
- ▶ This Psalm points to a time when God will bring absolute peace, without wars and weapons. We can look forward to this day when human suffering will be over.



CALM AFTER THE STORM

## **Matthew 8:23-27**

- ▶ **23** Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.
- ▶ **24** And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.
- ▶ **25** Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"
- ▶ **26** But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.
- ▶ **27** So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"



Working from home has given a lot of us a new perspective. All this time at home has allowed me to look closer at all the little details.

Evening walks

Birds Outside (Lucas House)

Talking with your neighbors



# FIND YOUR HAPPY PLACE

# Psalm 40

I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. 2 He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. 3 He has put a new song in my mouth-- Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the Lord. 4 Blessed is that man who makes the Lord his trust, And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. 5 Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered.

Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. 7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. 8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart." 9 I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord, You Yourself know. 10 I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great assembly.

11 Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O Lord; Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me. 12 For innumerable evils have surrounded me; My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up; They are more than the hairs of my head; Therefore my heart fails me. 13 Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me! 14 Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion Who seek to destroy my life; Let them be driven backward and brought to dishonor Who wish me evil. 15 Let them be confounded because of their shame, Who say to me, "Aha, aha!" 16 Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The Lord be magnified!" 17 But I am poor and needy; Yet the Lord thinks upon me. You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God.

- ▶ David felt stuck, like he was in quicksand.
- ▶ In quicksand, you need to be calm to escape.
- ▶ When we feel stuck, we need to be calm and wait upon the Lord. We must trust that He is powerful and can lift us up. We can have peace knowing that the Lord will save us!

2 Tim 3:12

<sup>12</sup> Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Romans 8:35

<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

John 15:18

<sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it* hated you.

Matthew 5:11-12

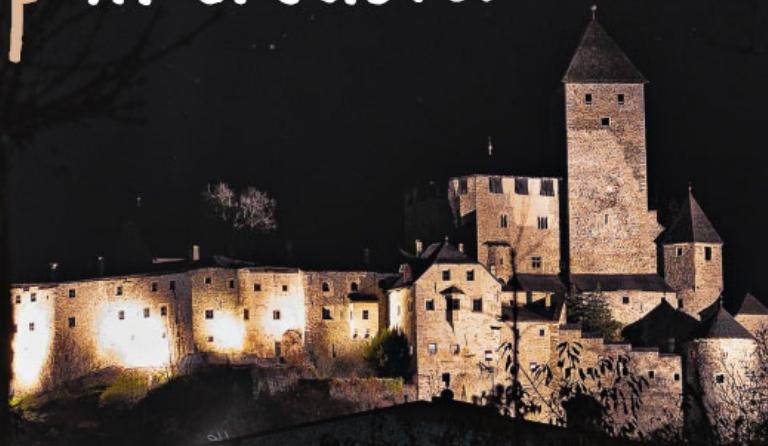
<sup>11</sup> Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



SOMETIMES CONFLICT AND HATE CAN'T BE AVOIDED

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1



### **Peter and Paul**

Paul was beheaded. Peter was crucified, upside down at his request, since he did not feel he was worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord.

### **Andrew**

Went to the "land of the man-eaters," in what is now the Soviet Union. He also preached in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey, and in Greece, where he is said to have been crucified.

### **Thomas**

Tradition has him preaching as far east as India. They claim that he died there when pierced through with the spears of four soldiers.

### **Philip**

possibly had a powerful ministry in Carthage in North Africa and then in Asia Minor, where he converted the wife of a Roman proconsul. In retaliation the proconsul had Philip arrested and cruelly put to death.

### **Matthew**

Some of the oldest reports say he was not martyred, while others say he was stabbed to death in Ethiopia.

### **Bartholomew**

had widespread missionary travels attributed to him by tradition: to India with Thomas, back to Armenia, and also to Ethiopia and Southern Arabia. There are various accounts of how he met his death as a martyr for the gospel.

### **James**

The Jewish historian Josephus reported that he was stoned and then clubbed to death.

### **Simon the Zealot**

Ministered in Persia and was killed after refusing to sacrifice to the sun god.

### **Matthais**

The apostle chosen to replace Judas. Tradition sends him to Syria with Andrew and to death by burning.

### **John**

The only one of the apostles generally thought to have died a natural death from old age. He was exiled to the island of Patmos.

# **THE APOSTLES ALSO FELL VICTIM TO PEOPLES HATE AND VIOLENCE**

The only confirmed photo of Abraham Lincoln (circled) at Gettysburg, taken about noon, just after Lincoln arrived and some three hours before the speech.



## 1 Peter 3:11

Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

## OUR COUNTRY IS NO STRANGER TO CONFLICT

- Resolving your differences with grace and love

## Proverbs 9:8-9

- <sup>8</sup> Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise *man*, and he will love you.
- <sup>9</sup> Give *instruction* to a wise *man*, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just *man*, and he will increase in learning.
- Living in a society where conflict is a daily occurrence. In the media, school, workplace, etc..

## Hebrews 12:14

<sup>14</sup> Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

- How we handle these conflicts and the attitude that others perceive will speak volumes.
- We're told that love covers a multitude of sins.
- 1 Peter 4:8
- <sup>8</sup> And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."
- Bear Each Other's Burdens
- Galatians 6:2
- <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
- There are plenty of people around us who could use help with burdens that they are carrying.

# Psalm 34

- ▶ **1** I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. **2** My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. **3** Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together. **4** I sought the Lord, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears. **5** They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed. **6** This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles. **7** The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them. **8** Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! **9** Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. **10** The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.
- ▶ **11** Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. **12** Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? **13** Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. **14** Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. **15** The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. **16** The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. **17** The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles. **18** The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. **19** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all. **20** He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken. **21** Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. **22** The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.
- ▶ Even though things may seem unfair in this life, we can see that God is good, and justice will come.
- ▶ In the end, wickedness and sin will be defeated! The Lord is working, even if we can't see it.



FINDING PEACE IN THE MOST TROUBLING OF TIMES

- ▶ Jesus was amazingly calm before his crucifixion
- ▶ John 14:27
- ▶ <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
- ▶ Jesus pointed us towards the peace of God.
- ▶ John 16:33
- ▶ <sup>33</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you <sup>[a]</sup>will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."
- ▶ It is through Christ that we can find this true peace
- ▶ Phil 4:6-7
- ▶ <sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup>and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- ▶ True peace can be found by trusting in God and walking with him

# THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE PEACE OF GOD