

S1



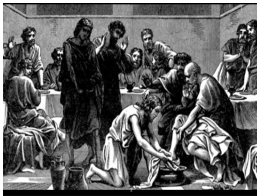
Tranquility in The Midst of Turmoil

Bethany Baptist Church

December 5, 2020

Jim Garnett (personal notes)

S2



Intro: Their world had just been shattered! They were still in the Upper Room with Jesus where He had washed their feet, then observed the Passover Meal. He told them that one of them would betray Him – leading to His arrest.

After that He explained to them that He would be put to death there in Jerusalem – and 3 days later would rise again.

Then He dropped the bombshell – “I must go to My Father’s House!” **HE WAS LEAVING THEM!**

How would they survive without Him? He had been with them for 3 years night and day – and now He was leaving?

What would become of them? Their FUTURES – FAMILIES – FINANCES – FAITH?

They were **afraid – fearful – confused** -Everything was in **turmoil!**



S3

We feel a bit like that ourselves – at the end of this year of 2020 – do we not? Life seems to be in a turmoil

Covid – Loved ones **sick** - **Riots** in the streets – **Businesses** failing – **finances** disappearing – **American Institutions** being attacked – and an **Election** that appears to have been filled with cheating and fraud!

Many are **afraid** – **fearful** – **confused** -Everything seems to be in **turmoil!**

Even though He was headed to Calvary's Cross – Jesus turned His attention to His disciples. He was focused on bringing them **TRANQUILITY IN THE MIDST OF TURMOIL!**



S4

And He does the same to us this morning. How? By telling us what we need to **KNOW** and what we need to **DO to have PEACE**



S5

I. WHAT WE NEED TO **KNOW**

S6



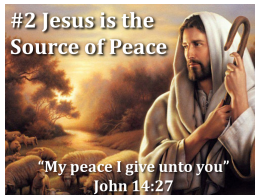
A. ABOUT PEACE

1. God has two ways He brings peace to His followers:

*By calming the **SEA** “Peace be still” Mark 14

*By calming the **SAILOR** “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you” John 14

S7



2. Jesus is the **source** of peace.

Note here exactly what Jesus promised - “**My** peace I give unto you” Jn 14:27

This is why it is so important to have an ongoing relationship with Jesus – peace for everyday life is found in Him

S8



3. This is not a peace that God manufactures for us – it is a peace that He Himself **possesses** – HIS peace – part of His nature!

The peace that you and I can have in the midst of the storm
– the tranquility in the midst of turmoil is all about Jesus



4. This peace is a choice.

“Let not your hearts be troubled” = “stop letting your hearts be troubled” John 14:27

You and I have a definite say as to whether we will take advantage of the peace that God offers us – It is **available**, but it must be **appropriated**.

TRANS: So those are a few things that we need to **know** about the **peace** we can have in the storm.. NEXT....we need to know about God.



B. ABOUT GOD



1. WHO God Is

I am convinced that most people – many Christians – do not know Who God is. Their god is a “little God” – one that has been **humanized** into a Heavenly Santa Clause.

1. That God does **not deserve** to be respected – or feared - or obeyed.
2. He has **little to offer** – not concerned, not able.
3. The God they know is not the God of the Bible

He is not the God that **Moses** knew whose face shone – glory of God

– or **Isaiah** – Fell on his face – woe is me

– or **Paul** – Fell to the ground – what would you have me to do?

As I walked the other morning, I was very discouraged – it looked like evil would once again triumph over good – I didn’t say it but I thought it “**God you must not know what you’re doing!**”

Then I stopped and looked around me – “Are you saying after I created all this into existence, I do not know what I am doing.”

I was no different than the **10 spies** – who looked at the **giants** in the land – “they will squish us like **grasshoppers!**”

Lift your eyes a **little higher** up – up to where **God sits** on His throne –

The **giants don’t look so big** from God’s vantage point!

My unbelief felt so absurd!

A realization of WHO God is makes us realize what He can do...Look around you – you can see Him everywhere..

“The heaven declare the glory of God and the skies proclaim the work of His hands.” Psalm 19:1

“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and God head.” Romans 1:20

“Ah, Lord God! Behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee” Jeremiah 32:17

“He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars and call them each by name – my help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” Psm. 121:1-2; 147:3-4

All around us is an illustration of WHO God is – the **Sovereign**, all **powerful**, all knowing, all **present**, never **changing**, never **failing**,

That’s the God we serve – that’s the God of the Bible! That’s the God who offers us refuge in the midst of the storm – offers calm in the chaos – Tranquility in turmoil!

Knowing WHO GOD IS floods our soul with peace!



S12

How Involved God
Wants To Be

2. HOW INVOLVED God wants to be.

I was thinking one day about how involved God wants to be our everyday life

I asked myself “So in what part of everyday life Does God **not want** to be involved”

S13



This is a picture of the average Christian life.

S14



This is a picture of the normal Christian life

What We Need To KNOW – and last

S15



II What We Need To DO

S16



#1. Be Thankful *“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Phil 4:6-7*



S17

#2. Think on Positive things. *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Phil 4:8*

I quit listening to the radio and tv **news**! Started reading a good book – got outside more – looked around more

I quit let the circumstances of life be stuck in my face – I took control of what goes in.



S18

#3. Expect trials. *“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.” 1 Peter 1:6-7*

Have you ever considered that the things we pray and ask God to take away from us are the very things He has sent to make us grow?

I noticed the other day that with all the miracles God did under Moses – Elijah – and Christ – those miracles never produced faith in the lives of God’s people.

As far as I could find – you know what does produce faith?
TRIALS. Expect them.



S19

#4. Read for a relationship.

When you read the Bible – do so with an end of knowing Jesus Christ better and loving Him more.

Pause before you read and ask God to give you something from your reading that you can lean on that day – personal, practical,

This is God’s love letter to us and reading it ought to enhance the relationship we have with Him



S20

#5. Raise Our Ebenezer.

1 Samuel 7 – memorial to remind Israel of who God is what He has done for them “Ebenezer – stone of help” – **brings peace to a troubled soul**

God did that often for Israel – memorials – markers – Passover (leaving Egypt) – crossing Red Sea – crossing Jordan (entering Canaan)

Fast forward nearly 2,900 to the year 1967. Four nations Egypt – Syria – Iraq – and Jordan are gathered against the tiny nation of Israel. The President of Iraq declared, “The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified. This is our opportunity to wipe out the ignominy, which has been with us since 1948. Our goal is to clear – to wipe Israel off the map.”

God was about to give His people another “Ebenezer!” He interjected Himself into the situation, and although Israel was out numbered 2 to1, at the end of the “Six-Day War” Egypt and Syria’s Air Force was totally destroyed, Israel tripled the size of its territory, and enough abandoned weapons were recovered to outfit five new Israeli brigades!



S21

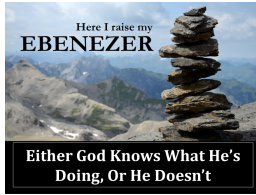
Someone asked the Israeli Commander, Moshea Dayan, how such a miraculous thing could be:

“The God who was, is. The God who did, does!”

That is the God we serve! The God who stands ready to come to our troubled hearts and bring respite and relief!

Do you have an Ebenezer you can cling to when the world turns upside down? Do you have an experience of life that can serve as a “marker” – a “monument” to God’s faithfulness and power?

In 2012 Two of our adult children committed suicide within 6 weeks of each other. As we look back at those awful days we can testify that GOD IS FAITHFUL – not one word failed of all He promised us!



S22

For us that serves to be an Ebenezer – It was then and there that we decided once for all – **“Either God knows what He is doing, or He doesn’t.”**



S23

“We had trusted Him for eternity – surely we can trust Him for today!”

Conclusion: And that’s how you find **tranquility in the midst of turmoil!** Lift your eyes higher than the circumstances around us and see that God – the Almighty God – who sets up kings and takes down kings – who holds the nations in His hand – who has a plan and purpose for this old world – and who loves us and wants to be an integral part of our everyday life is **waiting for us to simply trust Him.**

Prayer