

## Encouragement

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Good Morning Friend,

The angelic choir joyfully announced the birth of Jesus with these words . . . *Glory to God in the highest and on earth PEACE to men on whom his favor rests* (Luke 2:14). Eight hundred years earlier, God offered these prophetic words . . . *For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace* (Isaiah 9:6). Finally, the promise was fulfilled.

Some years ago I was the Saturday morning preacher at a large synagogue in Toronto, Alberta, Canada. It was their regular Shabbat worship service, just days before Yom Kippur. I chose to speak on, perhaps, the favorite word of many Jews, *shalom*, meaning peace. I spoke entirely from the Old Testament, which they call the Hebrew Bible. I told them that their Bible speaks of peace in at least three dimensions: personal inner peace, relational peace between people and between nations, and eternal peace with the Lord in His heaven. The Jews, living in Israel, do not yet know peace within their land, nor along its borders, but someday there will be peace. I spoke of peace coming from their promised Messiah, the Prince of Peace. In the Old Testament times, people found peace by looking forward to the Prince of Peace. In the New Testament and since, we find peace by looking back to Him . . . to Jesus, the true Prince of Peace. I told them that peace is based on a relationship between us and the Father through His Son, the Prince of Peace.

The response to the message was amazing. One older gentleman with tears coming down his cheeks said to me, I hope you were telling the truth today. *It was so good to hear what you had to say. In fact, I heard things in here today* (pointing to his heart) *that I never heard before*. I assured him that it was God's truth . . . totally reliable. I have since prayed for Him and others that were in the meeting that day.

There is a lot of good news centered in Jesus. Along with peace, there are the gifts of joy, forgiveness, heaven, purpose, and acceptance. He offers all of this to everyone who turns from self and systems to Jesus. All of this is found in Him, and in Him alone. That's right . . . **IN HIM ALONE**.

I know that it is not considered *politically* correct to say that Jesus is the only way. But it is biblically correct . . . and spiritually correct . . . and truthfully correct. Jesus, in John 14:6, says . . . *I am the way*,

*the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me.* Let's not argue the point, but let's present it lovingly, positively, graciously, compassionately, and humbly.

Evie and I watched a Billy Graham telecast the other day. It was good to hear him again present Jesus as the eternal Son of God and the Life-Changer. Jesus is still the same and will forever be the same. Thank God, Billy has never changed his message. He has never watered it down.

Pope John Paul preached in India several years ago. Long before he arrived, some Indian leaders, both religious and political, urged him to not come to India. Then they begged him, if he came, to apologize to Indians for centuries of preaching Christ as the only way. In fact, they threatened him. I wondered, what will he do? Will He go? Will he compromise? What a thrill to see that he did go and he powerfully preached Christ with words like these . . . *Do I believe that Jesus is relevant to our time? Yes, He is. He is the One that all of India needs to know. In fact, all of Asia needs to know Jesus. He alone is the Answer to the temporal and eternal needs of every human being.* I, Lareau, add a hearty AMEN!

Be encouraged,

Lareau Lindquist