



God-Given Peace

JOHN 21:15-23

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WARMING UP

1. What circumstances in our world and in our personal lives often chase away the peace that God intends for us? What emotions do these situations tend to stir up? How do you typically respond? What strategies have helped you to experience peace in the midst of the storm?

DIGGING IN

You'll have God-given peace when you understand that...

2. *You can't be in conflict with God and be at peace (v. 15-17).*
 - What happened in John 13:36-38 and 18:15-18 that causes Peter to be uneasy (understandably so) about his relationship to Jesus? How do Jesus' words both heighten Peter's unsettledness and reinforce his full restoration?
 - What characteristic of the Son of God does Peter appeal to in his threefold response ("you know that I love you")? How does this demonstrate a posture of authenticity, transparency, and vulnerability? Why are these qualities so important in our relationship with God and one another?
 - Pastor Todd said, "Having the peace of God in our lives is a by-product of experiencing God's love.... If you get to a good place with God, everything else falls into place." How does this work? Has this been true in your life?
3. *You can't choose your own way and be at peace (v. 18-19).*
 - What is Jesus communicating to Peter about his future?
 - Why is coming under authority so at odds with our contemporary culture? How do you feel about surrendering your personal autonomy in order to follow Christ? What does this look like on a day-by-day basis?
 - Pastor James MacDonald defines peace as "the calm assurance that what God is doing is best." When does this definition make total sense? When is it more difficult to accept?
4. *You can't compare yourself to others and be at peace (v. 20-23).*
 - What are some of the ways we often compare ourselves with others? Why is this completely unprofitable? What lies behind our comparisons?
 - How does Peter compare himself with John? How does Jesus offer a stinging rebuke? How would we be wise to heed Jesus' direct statement, "What is that to you?" Why does our main concern need to be on ourselves, not others?

BREAKING OUT

5. What is standing in the way of you fully experiencing God's peace in your life right now? What step(s) do you need to take to find this "calm assurance"? How can your small group be a meaningful part of this process?