

Comment 30 September, 2018

John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Jesus leaves us with a very special gift, the gift of peace. He expresses this emphatically, by putting the word "peace" first: "Peace I leave with you".

And it is not just any kind of peace, but specifically *his* peace, as he adds, "my peace I give to you"; and again in the Greek, the word for "peace" is the first word in the clause.

Jesus gives us his peace in his teaching, in which he always proclaimed a message of the importance of loving one's neighbour and showing respect to all.

He also gives us his peace in the example which he himself set throughout his life, practising the message which he preached, and never responding to hostility and opposition in like terms.

But *his* peace is also much more than this; it is a very special kind of peace, and indeed it is unique: "not as the world gives do I give to you".

It is a peace which only he can give, a peace which can be found only in him as the son of God.

It is a peace founded upon his victory over the sin and death in which all humans share.

John 14 is part of a long speech which Jesus gave to his disciples on the eve of Passover, just before his crucifixion.

He is about to depart in death, but will return as the risen and glorified Lord.

So he can repeat the words of comfort with which he opened Chapter 14: "Let not your hearts be troubled" and he can now add: "neither let them be afraid".

When we place our faith in him, because of his resurrection and exaltation, we obtain a peace which we can find nowhere else and in no other person.

He also puts it like this in John 16:33: "I have said this to you, that you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

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