



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Finding Peace

SPEAKER Ps Darren Kuek

THEME Obedience to God

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Ps. Darren taught us that we can find peace by making wise choices that align with God's Word. Citing the story of Gideon (Judges 6:1-24), he explained how disobedience to God robs us of peace, while obedience leads us into His presence, which is the source of divine peace.

BACKGROUND OF JUDGES 6

During Gideon's time, the Israelites lived in constant fear, stress and impoverishment. They had no peace because the Midianites often invaded their land to ravage it. Finally, Israel cried out to the Lord for help. God then revealed through a prophet that they had disobeyed His command not to fear the gods of the Amorites. They had worshipped foreign gods and were suffering the consequences of their disobedience. Thereafter, God, in His mercy, called Gideon to deliver Israel from their enemies (Jud 6:1-13).

WAYS WE CAN FIND PEACE

1. Obey His Word

Those who walk along crooked roads will not know peace and justice (Isa 59:8). But peace and longevity come to those who obey God's commands (Prov 3:1-2). The Bible is clear that obedience to God brings peace, while disobedience robs us of peace.

The following are some causes of disobedience that robs us of peace:

A) Disregarding God's Voice

In Judges 6, God instructed the Israelites not to fear the gods of the Amorites. But they disregarded His command and worshipped the foreign gods. Thus, God gave them over to the Midianites, and they had no peace living in their land. Obedience requires a steadfast commitment to do what is right in the sight of God, and a refusal to bow down to the pressures and temptations of this world.

B) Giving in to fears / fear of man

Proverbs 29:25 warn us about the fear of man. It is a dangerous snare that traps many into doing things to seek the approval of man. We can never find true peace by being a people-pleaser, because people and their opinions are ever changing. True peace comes from trusting our unchangeable Lord, obeying His commands, and doing what is pleasing to Him.

C) Worrying about provision / money

Money is required for daily living. God has no issue with us possessing money. However, if we constantly worry about not having enough and focus on accumulation, we may end up idolising money and making decisions that rob us of our peace. Jesus warns us against loving money more than we love God. When we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, we can experience peace knowing that He is our Provider (Matt 6:24, 32-33).

D) Not dealing with guilt

When we sin, we must be quick to confess and repent. God promises to forgive us without reproach if we confess our sins. It may be tempting to hide, avoid or blame others for our sins, but we end up with a guilty conscience that affects our spirit, (Ps 32:3-5) or may even make us feel unworthy to worship God (Gen 3:8-9).

2. Trust His Leading (Judges 6:14-16)

When God told Gideon to go and save Israel from the hand of Midian, his response was that of fear and disbelief. His thought was: How could someone as insignificant as him (from the weakest clan, the smallest tribe, and the least in his father's house) be able to deliver Israel? But God says that He will be with him. God was essentially telling Gideon to have faith and trust in Him. Gideon was asked to fight a battle, but the first battle that he had to overcome was in his mind. He saw himself as small and inadequate, but God saw him as a mighty man of valour. The lesson for us is this – when God gives us a big task beyond our ability, we can trust Him to empower us to deliver.

3. Experience His Presence (Judges 6:17-24)

Not knowing that the angel speaking to him was the Lord, Gideon asked for a sign to confirm their conversation. The angel did a miracle of fire before him, and he was convinced that he had been speaking to God. Gideon immediately built an altar there and called it "The Lord is Peace". Now, the presence of God had given him the peace he needed to risk his life in battle.

CONCLUSION

With a dangerous task ahead of him, Gideon found peace in God's presence. Likewise for us, the storms in our lives could be intimidating. We can find peace and strength by entering into God's presence by reading the Bible, praying and worshipping. Would you do that and trust God to see you through your storms?

QUESTIONS

1. Can you identify with some of the causes of disobedience? Which one do you find it most difficult to avoid?

2. Recall a time when you struggled to obey God's instruction, but you felt the peace to listen and obey. It could have been a difficult decision, task or situation that God has led you into. Why did you struggle to obey? How did God assure you? What was the outcome?

3. How has the presence of God changed your priorities and perspectives in life (e.g. career, finance, health and relationships)? How can you encourage a fellow Christian who is struggling in any of these areas to seek and put God first?