



Today's Lesson

***Living in Process:
Three P's for Peace***

Power Point notes available at:
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Living in Process: Three P's for Peace



Today is the second Sunday of Advent. This Sunday many Christian churches are celebrating the activity of "Peace" as we travel the holiday road to Christmas.

Living in Process: Three P's for Peace

In our quest to establish peace in our lives several questions weigh heavy on the minds of all who desire it.

Is perfect peace really possible or are we, as some people say, eluding ourselves to the very idea? Can peace be manifested when there are people who are always looking to control or kill others in order to spread their own ideologies?

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On the world stage it seems that the drama being played out is not one of peace but one of war, while being based on the idea that fear controls and motivates others to react in a hostile way towards those not like them.

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When actions of others are considered hostile, and when these actions are based on perceived fear, peace is very often the last thing we think about.

This Greek fable illustrates how the action of one individual can bring about dire results when fear is allowed to control their actions:

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The Otter rushed before the king crying, "My lord, you are an individual who loves justice and rules fairly. You have established peace among all your creatures, and yet there is no peace."

"Who has broken the peace?" asked the king.

"The Weasel!" cried the Otter. "I dove into the water to hunt food for my children, leaving them in the care of the Weasel."

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While I was gone my children were killed. "An eye for an eye, the Good Book says. I demand vengeance!"

The king sent for the Weasel who soon appeared before him. "You have been charged with the death of the Otter's children. How do you plead?" demanded the king. "Alas, my lord," wept the Weasel, "I am responsible for the death of the Otter's children, though it was clearly an accident."

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"As I heard the Woodpecker sound the danger alarm, I rushed to defend our land. In doing so I trampled the Otter's children by accident."

The king summoned the Woodpecker. "Is it true that you sounded the alarm with your mighty beak?" inquired the king. "It is true, my lord," replied the Woodpecker. "I began the alarm when I spied the Scorpion sharpening his dagger."

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When the Scorpion appeared before the king, he was asked if he indeed had sharpened his dagger. "You understand that sharpening your dagger is an act of war?" declared the king. "I understand," said the Scorpion, "but I prepared only because I observed the Turtle polishing its armor."

In his defense the Turtle said, "I would not have polished my armor had I not seen the Crab preparing his sword."

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?

The Crab declared, "I saw the Lobster swinging its javelin."

When the Lobster appeared before the king, he explained, "I began to swing my javelin when I saw the Otter swimming toward my children, ready to devour them." Turning to the Otter, the king announced, "You, not the Weasel, are the guilty party. The death of your children is upon your head. Whoever sows death shall reap it."

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In his book, Jesus Christ Heals, Charles Fillmore wrote this about peace:

A daily prayer for wisdom and divine guidance in the conduct of one's affairs will restore harmony to mind and body, and peace will of necessarily follow.

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Truth students who study the mind and its modes of action, find that when they refuse to let thoughts of fear, worry, anxiety, or other destruction act in their minds, they gradually establish an inner quietness that finally merges into great peace. This is the "peace of God, which passes all understanding."

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When this peace is attained, the individual gets inspirations and revelations direct from infinite Mind.

When we allow ourselves to get in touch with the Christ in us we experience that "peace that passes all understanding."

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In his book, Illustrations Unlimited, James Hewett shares his thoughts about peace. He writes:

The world has seen little peace since the Prince of Peace came. I discovered this fable on peace which challenges me.

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake," a sparrow asked the dove, sitting next to him on a tree branch. "Nothing next to nothing," the dove answered. "In that case let me tell you a story," replied the sparrow.

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"Some time ago I was sitting in a fir tree close to the trunk when it began to snow, just like in a dream--silent and soft. Since I had nothing to do, I sat there counting the snowflakes settling on my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the 3,741,953rd dropped onto the branch, 'nothing more than nothing,' as you said, the branch broke off." Having said that, the sparrow flew away.

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"The dove, God's symbol for peace since the day of Noah, thought about the story for awhile and finally said to herself, "Perhaps only one person's voice is lacking for peace to come to the world."

If we are to have any guarantee of peace in our lives we must do all we can to dispel the activity of letting fear control our lives and dictate our actions. We are the one voice, beginning with our own lives and relationships and then sharing it with the world.

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Fear in many forms causes us to push God out of our lives. When fear is allowed to rule our senses, our minds, it will create more fear.

In The Quest, Richard and Mary Alice Jafolla had this to say about the activity of fear and the price we pay for it:

Our lives can take on the aspect of war, as we spend our energy trying to avoid the land mines which lie hidden all round us, land mines of fear which can explode into bouts of worry, anxiety and panic attacks.

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As long as we stay in the fear mode, it's like being on a battlefield and there will always be something to fear, another land mine to avoid, another decision based not on what is best for us but simply on how to avoid whatever we fear.

Fear (false evidences appearing real) spawns new fears that rob us of a great deal of our freedom--especially the freedom to live in peace.

