

Follow the King

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Sermon Questions

Date: *December 18, 2022* | Scripture: *Isaiah 9:6 (Prince of Peace)*

1. Revisit Isaiah 9:1-7 with a focus on the title “prince of peace.” How does the passage portray the messiah as a peacemaker? How does the context of the passage (King Ahaz’s search for peace) intensify Isaiah’s words?
2. Where do you go when you’re feeling overwhelmed or anxious? Your phone? Something to numb the pain? Back to work?
3. Is your peace dictated by your circumstances or does your peace defy your circumstances?
4. What does shalom mean? How does God’s promise to bring shalom surpass a worldly understanding of peace?
5. How does the Christmas story subvert our expectations for how the savior would be a prince of peace?
6. How does the rest of the gospel—Jesus’ ministry, death, resurrection, ascension, and coming return—fulfill the expectations for Jesus to be a prince of peace?

Inward Grace in Action

Paul, writing from a prison cell, tells us in Phil 4:6-7 “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

It can be easy to get caught up in worrying or attempting to problem-solve when we’re faced with something that causes us anxiety. Paul is wise to remind us to bring our anxieties before the Lord in prayer.

- How often do you let your requests be made known to God when you are anxious? When do you not do this?
- Why do you think Paul includes the note “with thanksgiving”? How might the inclusion of thanksgiving help quell our anxieties?

Action: Take some time as a group to voice some of the things that are making your heart anxious this Christmas season. As you share, also try to share one thing you are thankful to God for. Pray with and for one another over all these things.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Leviticus 26:3-13
- Psalm 85
- Isaiah 2:1-5
- John 20:19-23
- Ephesians 2:11-22
- Revelation 21:1-4

Serve: there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer.

Pray for our church as we anticipate receiving nearly 20% of our annual budget in the next two weeks, that we might be driven by love and motivated to generosity.

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons’ Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org