



# SERMON NOTES

Week 1 November 28, 2021

## “Altogether Peace”

Isaiah 11:1-4, 6; James 4:8; Colossians 3:13;

Mark 8:35; Matthew 7:13-14;

Ephesians 4:25-26, 28-29; 31-32



### I. Introduction

A. This series is designed to help us cover the \_\_\_\_\_ between ‘almost’ and ‘altogether.’

B. Our ‘almost’ peace seems \_\_\_\_\_ away from an ‘altogether’ peace.

C. People in the Christmas story had similar struggles to us in a search for \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. Peace

A. Peace is not the absence of conflict, it’s the presence of \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Peace does not come through \_\_\_\_\_, avoidance, or distraction.

C. Peace comes through acknowledgment, \_\_\_\_\_, and disruption.

### III. Choosing the Road to Peace

A. Jesus said blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Jesus says the \_\_\_\_\_ road is what leads to life and peace.

C. Paul gives us some very practical guidance on how to be a peacemaker in a time of cultural \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Speak truth.
- b. Watch your anger.
- c. Don’t steal (someone else’s dignity)
- d. Practice empathy.
- e. Watch your language.
- f. Guard your heart.
- g. Be kind compassionate, and forgiving.

### *Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message*

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *Nov. 29 – Dec. 4, 2021*

## INTRODUCTION

During this time of year, we sing about ‘peace on earth goodwill toward men.’ But the reality is that it seems like we don’t have peace on earth. There are conflicts around the globe, there are broken relationships in our lives, and there is a lack of peace in our hearts. Our ‘almost’ peace seems far away from an ‘altogether’ peace. So how can we close the gap?

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### Monday: Isaiah 9:1-7

Peace is often mentioned alongside of justice and righteousness. What does that tell us about what peace is? How does that differ from what we tend to think of what peace is? This is a prophecy concerning the reign of the Messiah whom we know as Jesus. How does the description of his reign bring you encouragement?

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### Tuesday: Psalm 34

What does this psalm have to teach us about peace? Verse 14 tells us to “seek peace and pursue it.” How does that influence your understanding of peace? What would it look like for you to seek peace in the areas where you are lacking it?

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### Wednesday: Isaiah 58

This chapter may not mention the word peace, but it powerfully illustrates the difference between our common misconception about peace (the absence of conflict) and the peace of God (the presence of wholeness). According to this passage what does the peace of God here on earth look like? How does this passage challenge you?

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### Thursday: Galatians 5:13-26

Peace is one of the fruits of the Spirit. How does that influence your understanding of the peace that we desire in our lives? What does it look like for you to “keep in step with the Spirit” in regards to peace?

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### Friday: Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes should be read as a progression. What does it mean to be poor in spirit, to mourn and to be meek, and what does that have to do with peace between one another?

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## MOVING FORWARD

Biblical peace is not the absence of conflict, it’s the presence of wholeness. This is important to understand because what we believe about peace directly influences how we will seek it out. Peace doesn’t come through denial, avoidance, or distraction—it comes through acknowledgement, engagement, and disruption. Peace, without action, is just a nice feeling. If you *want* peace at Christmas, *make* peace at Christmas. What is one small thing you can do this week to bring peace in your life, relationships or your community?

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) distance, B) far, C) peace. IIA) wholeness, B) denial, IIC) engagement. IIIA) peacemakers, B) narrow, C) discord.*

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