

Jammin' with the Wisdom of Jesus

Some Notes for the Reflection on April 19, 2017



When you read the accounts of Jesus' encounters with his friends after his resurrection, two themes dominate.

The first is the peace that what God has done in Jesus offers to the world and to them.

It is the peace of a reconciled relationship.

What was broken has been repaired by the power of an unconditional love.

What was dysfunctional is now flourishing through the example and empowerment that is given to humanity in Jesus Christ.

The biblical word in Hebrew for this peace is SHALOM.

The Greek translation is EIRENE.

It points to the wholeness, welfare, and harmony. It conveys the vision of a graceful commonwealth in which the whole of creation flourishes.

The second thing that Jesus says a lot is, "Don't be afraid."

That's weird by any human standards.

Risen from the dead, after three days in the tomb.

Nothing human can do that.

It must be an act of God.

But why?

Quite simply, to show God's love in such a powerful way that people could not ignore it.

The Brentwood Manifesto of the Christian Faith

How We See God, the World, Humanity, and the Future

In the beginning, God created the world and delighted in its diversity and development. God created human beings and nourished them to flourish in blessing all of creation.

But humanity rebelled, rejecting the limits of their power. Their rebellion against God's vision of justice, peace, and joy brought tyranny, suffering, and death.

God never tired of calling humanity home to work in common to cultivate the well-being of the world. Through the law and the prophets, God's Spirit invited love of God, love of others, and love of self as the empowering energy for engaging in this mission.

In a unique and decisive act of reconciliation and revelation, God overcame our alienation and loneliness. God took flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

In the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, the creation is restored to its original purpose. God continues to craft the completion of this redemption.

Through the church universal, visible and invisible, the Holy Spirit empowers people to participate consciously in their reconciliation through worship, learning, fellowship, and service.

By God's grace in Jesus Christ through the work of the Spirit, we know what it is to be loved and to love amidst all the problems of the world. We are equipped and sent to sow seeds of God's SHALOM in all of our circles of influence.

In the end, God's love, healing, and forgiveness will transform heaven and earth and bring justice, peace, and joy to full realization.