

# Peace to You!

## Luke 2:36-47

**36** And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, **37** and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. **38** And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

### The Return to Nazareth

**39** And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. **40** And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

### The Boy Jesus in the Temple

**41** Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. **42** And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. **43** And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, **44** but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, **45** and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. **46** After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. **47** And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

It is now the evening of Resurrection Sunday and the disciples have gathered together, excited to share the accounts of the day. Some have seen the empty tomb and the angels. Some have seen the Risen Christ. In the midst of this conversation Jesus suddenly appears with a greeting of "Peace to you!" Assured and confident just seconds earlier, the disciples are now startled, afraid, and full of doubts. The one in their midst is not simply an earthly Jesus, nor is it simply a spiritual Jesus, like a ghost. It is in fact the Resurrected Lord and Christ.

#### I. **Jesus brings a peace like no other (v. 36)**

We often think of the word "peace" to mean the absence of war or an inner peace from the frustrations and worries of family and work. However, we find in Scripture the word "peace" to be intrinsically linked to salvation. The peace that is brought by Jesus is a peace like no other. The peace He gives is a cosmic/eternal peace – a peace that is necessary, a peace with God.

#### II. **Jesus is a Savior like no other (vv. 37-43)**

Jesus brings a peace like no other because He is a Savior like no other. Jesus was not just a great human being, nor was He a spiritual idea. Jesus is, in fact, the resurrected Lord. The disciples see not a spirit, as they suspected, but the resurrected Jesus in a body that could be touched with flesh and bones. Jesus died and rose again and because of that, we also will rise again and have a transformed body.

#### III. **Jesus has a message like no other (vv. 44-48)**

As we read this story we have to ask the question, "why?" Why did Jesus die and rise again? Through verse 43 we have the facts of the Resurrection, but we do not have the interpretation of the Resurrection. The interpretation given is a message like no other. The Scripture tells us that He died to pay for your sins and He rose again to secure your salvation. This is the message of peace. Jesus' death secures our peace with God.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word “peace”?
2. What is the difference between external peace, internal peace, and eternal peace?
3. How did Jesus prove that He was not a spirit to the disciples? Do you think it would have taken this kind of proof for you?
4. What is the best (only) way to find the accurate interpretation of why Jesus died on the cross?
5. What are some biblical examples of the word “peace” being linked to salvation?

### **Going Deeper**

1. Do you have peace with God?
2. How has this peace changed/affected your life?
3. How will the Gospel story change the way you live your life this week?