

# Illuminate – Pt. 1

## Walk in Peace

### I. **Intro:** What's God Saying?

#### A. **When God Comes Close Sermon Review**

- a. Personal experience—things get worse before they get better.
- b. Biblical precedent
  - i. Ps. 18:11-12 – “Clouds and thick darkness surround Him.”
  - ii. Ps. 50:3 “Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before Him, and around Him a tempest rages.”
  - iii. Habakkuk 3:2-6 “Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy. God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. His glory covered the heavens and the earth. His splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from His hand, where his power was hidden. **Plague went before him; pestilence followed his steps.** He stood, and shook the earth; he looked, and made the nations tremble. The ancient mountains crumbled and the age-old hills collapsed. His ways are eternal.

#### B. **Our Time to Shine**

- a. Evangelism def - the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness.
- b. *“Arise, **shine**, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.” -Isaiah 60:1-3 NIV*
  - i. Rise – to stand up
  - ii. Shine ‘owr’ – to be or become light, shine, illuminate.
- c. *“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp a put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” -Matthew 5:14-16 NIV*

#### C. **The purpose of light is not to bring attention to itself, it's to illuminate what is unseen or hidden.**

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- a. As a light in this world, the role of every believer is to help people see the reality of God and his kingdom.
- b. “We owe the world an encounter with God.” -Bill Johnson
- c. Unbelievers are not impressed with how much of the Bible we quote.
- d. They're not impacted by how often we attend church.
- e. They're not moved by our self righteousness.
- f. People are most impacted when we become the light we profess to know—aka Jesus. (John 8:12)

### D. My experiences with evangelism.

- a. There are different styles, methods, and strategies to share the gospel—all of them are good.
- b. Would not call myself an evangelist but have seen many come to Christ.
  - i. Note: Sometimes we're planting, sometimes we're watering, but only God gives the increase.
  - ii. Jesus said, “no one is able to come to me unless the Father draws them.” (John 6:44)
  - iii. Need to be culturally aware and spiritually sensitive.
- c. Never good at sales—still not good☺
- d. Uncomfortable making people uncomfortable.
- e. However, many people saved—just by *being* a light.
- f. The fruit of the Spirit speaks for itself.

### E. One of the greatest ways we can shine in our world is to learn to live and walk in God's Peace.

## II. Thoughts about Peace

**A. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts**, since as members of one body you were called to peace.” -Colossians 3:15

### B. Peace is an abstract substance like love.

- a. Can't see it but you know when you have it.
- b. The world is looking for peace.
- c. Only God can give true peace.
- d. The world's peace is hard to get and easy to lose.
- e. God's peace is easy to get and hard to lose.

### C. Peace is a person.

- a. “He himself (Jesus) is our peace...” (Eph. 2:14).
- b. Called the “Prince of Peace” (Isa. 9:6).
- c. Melchizedek type of Christ – means King of Salem (peace).
- d. Jerusalem – Jeru “city” Salem “peace” = city of peace
- e. God rules from PEACE...

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f. He never uses anxiety to lead us

### D. Peace is always connected to government in the Bible.

- a. Jerusalem means “city of peace”.
- b. *I will make **peace your governor** and righteousness your ruler. - Isaiah 60:17b*
- c. *For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His **government and peace** there will be no end.*
- d. **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts**, since as members of one body you were called to peace.” -Colossians 3:15
  - i. Rule “Brabeuo”
    - a. to be an umpire
    - b. to decide, determine
    - c. to direct, control, rule
  - ii. Peace is meant to be our governor.
  - iii. Why do we need this?
  - iv. Most decisions are not between good and bad but between good and good.

### E. The primary role of government is to direct and protect.

- a. We need GOD'S direction in this season.
  - i. Most decisions not between good and evil but good and good.
  - ii. Good works, Bad works
- b. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will **guard your hearts and your minds** in Christ Jesus.” -Philippians 4:6-7 NIV
- c. “**Be still**, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” -Psalms 46:10 NIV