

WHERE CAN I FIND PEACE?

THE KING HAS COME | WEEK 3 | 12.15.2019

Can we say that name? [Audience: “Jesus!”] Say it again. [Audience: “Jesus!”] Oh, man, this week – you can have a seat – this week I’ve been so excited. One of the things I love about Christmas is there’s the name of Jesus has a tendency to be repeated in places it’s normally not repeated this time of the year, and even the message gets repeated. And I want to just encourage you don’t be shy about saying the name of Jesus because there’s power in the name of Jesus and we’re gonna repeat that over and over this morning. Just say the name of Jesus again [Audience: “Jesus!”]. We want that name lifted up, lifted up in this place.



I want to remind you along those lines that next Sunday we’re gonna have a normal Sunday morning service, 9:30 and 11:00, well, it’s gonna be a little different because it’s going to be all Christmas music, all Christmas music, and you’ll love it and you’ll be able to sing your heart out. We’re gonna continue teaching from Isaiah Chapter 9, we’ll talk about that here in a moment, but we’re just gonna be bringing you Jesus. On Christmas Eve we’re gonna be having the Christmas Eve service. I would love for you to come. I would love for you to bring your family. We’re going to be having three services 3:30PM, 5PM, and 6:30PM, these cards [*he holds one up*] are all over the lobbies, grab one, grab a stack. If you’ll put them in places, grab lots of stacks, they’re not going to do us any good on Christmas Eve so get them out now. People’s lives can be impacted by this.



Here’s what I want to throw out to you, Christmas Eve is one of those times people will come, they’ll come with you, and that is why I have just encouraged this idea of this is a time of year you can say things you can’t say other times of the year. So if your family comes into town in July and you say, “Come to church with me.” They’ll be like, “Yeah, you know, uh.” But if you ask them to come on Christmas Eve, they’ll probably come.

They probably brought their red dress and all that kind of stuff and they’re all dialed in ready to go, the weird looking sweater and all that kind of stuff, they’ll come. Put the bells around, lit up things, all that kind of stuff, they’ll come, they’re looking forward to that and they’re looking forward to making a whole evening out of it. When you invite them they’ll come, and you may not know that, you may be a little bit nervous about that, they’ll come.



Your neighbors will come, your co-workers are coming—someone told me just yesterday, they said, “You know, I talked to a coat worker and I asked him, ‘Would you come to church?’ ” He said, “I had one of these cards, they’re just like business-sized cards and, ‘Would you come to Christmas Eve with me?’ ” And he said, “I was shocked, the guy goes, ‘Yeah, I’d really like that.’ ” He said, “We haven’t gone to church in years, but we sort of have been talking about it and we’d like to but we didn’t know where to go.” If you’ll ask, it’ll make a difference. So anyhow make sure it’s on your calendar, 3:30PM, 5PM, and 6:30PM on Christmas Eve, you know what day that is – 24th, you know, okay.

Isaiah Chapter 9 there is a verse—we’ve been covering it each week, we’ll cover it again next week—but we’ve been taking it apart piece by piece. It’s a verse that you’ve heard read in the context of the

Christmas story many, many times. I want to read it again but this week I want to continue by taking out just a couple little words because I believe this verse is more than just this really warm sentimental Christmas verse, but this verse can become incredibly operational in your life today. Isaiah Chapter 9, verse 6, listen to these words:

***6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.***

~ ISAIAH 9:6-7

Probably one of the few times a year you get into the book of Isaiah, and if you find yourself there you probably notice all sorts of stuff. It talks about all these different kings and has all this, in a lot of cases, very dark language and you're not quite sure what to do with it. But you do know, I mean, it's so clear that this is a prophecy of the birth of Jesus Christ, but you don't really dig deeper than that. Just on a page before that in Chapter 7, verse 14, is another one of those verses that is so powerful. Again, a prophecy of the birth of Jesus Christ mixed in amongst a lot of this prophetic writing. [Isaiah] 7:14 says this:

***14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive
and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.***

— which means, “God with us” —

~ ISAIAH 7:14

And now before I jump into what I would really love to talk to you about in Chapter 9 in that verse that I started with, I've got to tell you that the words surrounding this I had mentioned that the prophet Isaiah is writing 700 years before the birth of Christ, these words are absolutely important to setting this up and throwing the background behind the scene. At that time there was a king in Jerusalem, his name was a Ahaz, and Ahaz was not a godly king, he was not a righteous king. In fact, he was a very wicked king. Interestingly enough, as a little aside, but his dad was actually a godly king, he was a righteous king, a very good king.

And it's sort of a reminder to any one of us who has kids not to take that for granted. Just because we go to church because we love Jesus, because we're walking in His ways, and we're trying to follow righteously does not mean may will automatically do that. And that's why we have to take that role of raising our children so important, that is such an important thing; even grandparents when you're having the kids come into town for Christmas. It's just a huge moment to build into their lives, to be talking to them about Jesus because it doesn't just naturally happen. And our world is so opposed to this right now. Everything they're being taught and pushed in every place where they're gaining information is very much leaving Jesus out of it.

And so anyhow, King Ahaz was not a godly king and in that time in northern Israel they were having some problems with some of the alliances that they had around them. There was a fear of battle and war

and attack and it looked like it wasn't going well and there were some weird things going on in that time. It was a little different than our time where we get instant reports, but in that time they're getting these reports sort of trickling in and information trickling in and the people of God are very, very concerned in the area of Jerusalem. And King Ahaz in order to mitigate this is told one thing by God but does a different thing himself. God says to him through the prophet Isaiah, and I find this in Isaiah Chapter 7, verse 4, it says:

⁴ And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah.

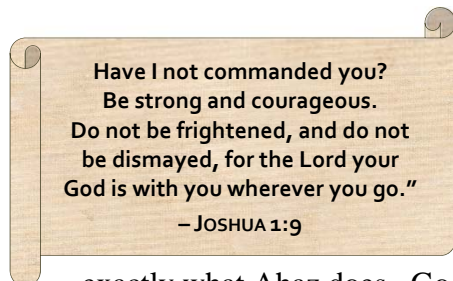
~ ISAIAH 7:4

"Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, do not let your heart be faint, because of these" — in other words, Ahaz, God says, "I've got it." Just a great phrase to put in the back of your own mind, God's got this. God's got this. Looks bad, God's got this. And God says to Ahaz, hey listen, don't be fearful, don't be frightened about this. In fact, it may bring back memories of a verse in the Old Testament of your Bible that you know very well, Joshua 1:9. Let me read these words:



⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

– JOSHUA 1:9



Have any of you ever heard that verse before? Be strong and courageous, God's got this, God's with you, don't be afraid, you can you can move forward in today. And crazy thing in the midst of that we might sit here today going, "God's got this," and then behind the scenes try to maneuver things because we're not a hundred percent sure if He does have this. And so we begin to go doing our own little things to try to mitigate the problem. Which is

exactly what Ahaz does. God says listen, you don't have to be fearful, Ahaz. Verse 7 says:

***⁷ thus says the Lord God:
"It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass. "'***

— verse 9 says, I love this —

"If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all."

~ ISAIAH 7:7, 9b

He wasn't firm in faith. He wasn't following God. So God tells him one thing, he goes and tries to fix it for God behind the scenes and he builds this alliance with Assyria to come and solve the problem in northern Israel. And Assyria comes down and attacks there in northern Israel and takes some of those tribes away and that creates—that's what they always did in those times, it creates this disconcerting thing. Imagine if a foreign invading army came in here and just grabbed us and took us out of here, took us to another country. Man, that's a scary type of thing. Well, this army that King Ahaz had created some sort of an allegiance with, they don't stop at northern Israel and they keep coming towards

Jerusalem and coming towards them, and that's where what we read later on in this chapter tells us, it says that the people became incredibly fearful. Listen to this in Chapter 7 verse 2:

2 When the house of David was told, "Syria is in league with Ephraim," the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

~ ISAIAH 7:2



It's a very visual thing for us. You can just picture that whole forest with the wind shaking, and you just picture, if you could picture this whole room right now all of a sudden all of us sort of in this mode [*he sways back and forth*] just shaking back and forth. There's this picture that we in this room live in this place where based on the culture of our time, how things are being done in our time, it's very dark and we're very scared. The culture is how things are done. When they're looking at their culture at that time, they're looking what was going on in northern Israel; they've seen these tribes being taken away, they're scared. And then when those armies start coming towards them they're very, very, very scared. And it doesn't matter at that point that God says I've got this, stand firm in your faith because if you don't stand firm in your faith, you won't stand on anything. They are fearful. And unfortunately this guy Ahaz who's our king isn't leading them in the right direction in the slightest.

Chapter 8, verse 11, says this:

11 For the Lord spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people,

— In other words, the stuff going on around you, shaking you, don't walk in that way. Don't be sucked in by things they're saying. Don't be sucked in by the ways they act in the midst of this trouble. God says I've got this. He goes on to say this, verse 12, and I'm just gonna tell you, the words that you are ready to hear read in the book of Isaiah written 720 years before the birth of Christ sound so incredibly relevant to what exactly what we're hearing today. This is what I love about the Bible. That's why I like bringing you the Bible every week because my words are just my words, God's words you go, "That's just like— this could be written this week by some prophet in our land and we'd be like, 'This is legit.'" Listen to this in chapter 8, verse 12:

saying: 12 "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. 13 But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread."

~ ISAIAH 8:11-13

Stop listening to all this stuff that's riling you up, that's concerning you, that's confusing you. Quit listening to these reports that's causing you to doubt whether God can protect you. And the prophet Isaiah says stop listening to these conspiracies. Don't be in fear, but rather fear God. Just put Him as first. Make Him #1 – put all of your attention there.

MAKE GOD #1
put all of your attention there

He goes on to talk about something that I think, again, is incredibly relevant to our day. I see it in the church in America today a lot of people say, "I believe in God. I believe in Jesus. I'm all in." That's

fine, but at the same time they turn to all sorts of demonic stuff—the astrology, the occult, they talk about different signs, and they talk about, you know, all these different things that, “Well, this means this,” and, “This means this,” and, “This is your dead relative coming back,” and all this kind of stuff, and, “Oh, you need to recognize that this is that.” And listen to what this says here, verse 19 of Chapter 8:

19 And when they say to you, “Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter,” should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living?

— the same stuff that you're hearing today. You would think, “No, no one would be inquiring of the dead today,” and yet there's a constant talk about that. Verse 21 says this:

21 They will pass through the land,

— this is what was going on at that time; I believe it's going on at this time —

greatly distressed and hungry. And when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will speak contemptuously against their king and their God, and turn their faces upward.

22 And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.

~ ISAIAH 8:19, 21-22

Would that not describe the reality of many people? Maybe many of us in this room today that are living in our culture in our time. And it is up against that backdrop that Isaiah says these words in Isaiah Chapter 9 that's right before these verses about Christ. It says

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

~ ISAIAH 9:2

And here's what I just want to say out loud in this room today to just kick this off to each one of us, in the midst of this great darkness and among great failures of our culture, and even among great failures even in our spiritual systems and our spiritual beliefs, in our own faith that has not stood firm or we haven't held onto, there is great hope. And that great hope is going to be found 2-3 verses down from this that's going to say this:

For to us a child is born, to us

— to us —

a son is given;

~ ISAIAH 9:6a



Jesus

This is the great light that has shown. This is the great light that is shining on us, 700 years before the birth of Christ, God is telling the prophet Isaiah tell them about a name, tell them about a child, tell them about not just any old child, tell them about Jesus because it is at the name of Jesus that everything begins to change. It is with the name of Jesus that dark rooms and dark times get lit up. It is the light of Jesus that shines down and causes people to step back and say,

“What's going on?” Today what I'm hoping for in the worst sort of way, it's the thing I've been praying for all week long, is that somehow our vision of Jesus this Christmas season would be expanded. That it would get bigger. This is no ordinary baby. When He says, unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, He's focusing in on you. He's doing this for me. He loves us and this child Jesus has been given to you, has been given to me. And we need to receive that with everything that is being offered to us this morning.

When you are sorting out the issues of life, what I want you to be able to do is to be able to go to these words, “*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,*” and I want you to hear these words: “*and his name shall be called*”—this child that is given to you has a name. We know that. And today our names don't mean a whole lot. We make them up. They're goofy. There's all sorts of reasons. In fact, I just read this week that our generation right now that when they start a family the first thing they wanna do is create a logo, and so their identity is based on their logo. But in the time that this is being written a name had deep meaning and it spoke to the character and the identity of the person that that name identified. So for me it might be Lee, a pastor and a shepherd of a wonderful, wonderful people; that might be what my name meant. It might be Lee, a father of beautiful children. It might mean husband of a wonderful wife. That would be what my name would mean.

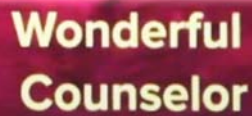
And the name of Jesus we're going to tell you over and over is powerful because in that name much is communicated to us about the character of who He is, and when God says to the prophet Isaiah, “Tell these people in the midst of darkness of what I'm about ready to provide, and let me tell you about His name.” And I want to tell you about that name. In this text it tells us in Isaiah 9:6:

his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

~ ISAIAH 9:6b



And here's what I want to do, I want to reformat those names for you today. You probably have those names echoing through your mind in some sort of song right now|that ends in some sort of crescendo and vibrato that's like [*he sings it in a high voice*] “Prince of Peace,” and you're like, [*extends his arms up in a praise posture, singing*], “Aaah,” and it creates this great emotional thing inside of you where the hair stands up on your neck and you're like, “This is what I love about Christmas.” I want you to love more than the pretty music of an emotional time that goes back to the many, many concerts that you've gone to where you've stood at attention in honor of the King. When this text says here in the midst of this darkness there is an evil, wicked king ruling over this place that has created a culture that is messed up, but I am sending the King—**THE KING HAS COME**—and He's come for you.



**Wonderful
Counselor**

And that ought to, in this Christmas season, cause us to go, “Wow!” And here's how that King is described. He has described as Wonderful Counselor. In the song normally it goes, “Wonderful [pause] Counselor.” No, He's not “wonderful,” He's Wonderful Counselor—one phrase, two words, not like any other counselor that you've ever been to. Probably a whole bunch of us have never been to a counselor, probably a whole bunch of us wish we could go to a counselor but they aren't under our insurance. Some of us have called a counselor.

I get called all the time, “Hey, you have any good counselors?” “Yeah, I have a counselor,” and give them the name. “Oh, they're not available till next June, that's a little bit late now. I need a counselor now.” I was talking to someone here just a couple weeks ago and I just looked him in the eyes and said, “How are you doing?” And tears welled up in the eyes. This person doesn't cry. This person doesn't have problems. This person's on the top of the world doing good, but they need someone to talk to; they're lonely, they're hurting. You are lonely, you're hurting, you have needs, you have things, you wish you had someone to talk to, but—I'm fine. Right? I don't need anyone, and I don't even know what I'd say if I went in. And yet He says this child who's about to be born is [*he points across the audience*] your, your, your Wonderful Counselor.

I did a very complicated Google search this week, one phrase, *what do we look to counselors for?* What did I write, “reasons people go to counselors.” That's what I Googled. That was the complicated line I put in and here's the answers. I got depression, anxiety, addiction, grief, sexual issues, relationship issues, harmful thoughts, isolated or alone, feel like you need someone to talk to. And I read this text and it says unto you, unto you a child is born, unto us a son is given. You know what I noticed is—it's one of the reasons why I just pretty much do almost no counseling today and even when people want to come up and want counsel, I'm just like, uh, I don't want to go because they don't listen. Like, if I could fix it on the spot, you know, like [*gestures like he's checking off a box on a to-do list*] and like the problem is gone, they'd be all over that. But when I say, “Hey, you know, I'd like you to read this and I'd love you to try this.” [They] Come back the next week, “Yeah, yeah, you don't understand. You've never had these problems, you don't understand.” Well, [*throws his hands up*]. “So you didn't do what I asked.” “No.” “Why'd you come to me then?”

This King Ahaz has an interesting thing here. Capture this: The God of the universe sends a guy by the name of Isaiah the prophet to Ahaz, “Ahaz, I know it looks bad right now, but these guys are not going to succeed against you so don't be fearful. It's all good.” Ahaz is like, “Well, good.” And then he jets out to create some alliance with Assyria. He's in Damascus and when he's in Damascus he sees this altar to all their gods in Damascus, and you can pray to this god for this, and you pray to this god for that, and he's going, “That looks good, that's helpful.” So he gets the dimensions of this altar and takes some pictures of it and he ships it back to Jerusalem and says, “Hey, move the altar of God and put up this altar that I saw in Damascus,” to all these guys. “I'm gonna come and I'm gonna make sacrifices to those gods, too. Now, yeah, oh yeah, just keep the altar to God, we'll do that, too.”

And I think that's oftentimes our response in a room like this is, “Okay, I get it. He's Wonderful Counselor. I can go to Him, but yeah, you know there's a whole lot of other options I have and so I'm checking off those options. And so yeah, we'll do our little God thing here right now just in case that works, hopefully we've appeased God, but I know these are the things that I really read about that are going to work.” I read this, I go, “Are you kidding me?”

You know, Joshua, be strong and courageous. Do not fear. God's saying to Ahaz, “You don't have to fear. I've got this.” And God is looking at us and saying unto us a child is born and His name is

Wonderful Counselor and He wants to be your counselor and He's there for you.” Now here's what's even better. I can sit and share neat thoughts with someone when they come to me and ask what to do about something, but I can't fix it for them. I can't go and make the apology on their behalf. I can't go make the amends. I can't go rebuild the trust on their behalf. They have to do it. And I can't get things the way they once were, the way they were supposed to be, and I don't even know how they were supposed to be and I don't even know what right is in their situation. I don't know all the situations.

And what he says here is one of these names of Wonderful Counselor is Mighty God. In other words, this Wonderful Counselor is Mighty God. Mighty God has the power to do the very things in your life that He tells you to do. He through His Holy Spirit begins to move through you that when you get your advice from Him, when you pray to Him, when you read His Scripture and He tells you where to go, He gives you the help necessary to make it happen and it's not any old help, it is supernatural God help, powerful and mighty.



Again, may I remind you it is up against the backdrop of the darkest moments that God says, “Isaiah, tell them that there's a name of One who is to be born that can be that unto us.” Not only is He Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, He is also Everlasting Father. Let me tell you why that matters. Some of you

**Everlasting
Father**

in this room had wonderful fathers; some of you in this room have an absolute wonderful father. You've been known to call that father at any time and ask for his help and he's been amazing. Now some of you don't, and we get that, and so somebody you are going, “I need a father.” But either way, the problem with the fathers that we have here on this earth is they're not everlasting. If

everything falls the way life normally works, that father will be gone and you'll still have a bunch of life ahead of you. They're not everlasting. They won't be there forever. There will be a day when you'll wish dad was there that you can ask daddy a question, that you could call him up and say, “What would you do?” Hey, there may be a time right now he's traveling, he's not available and he's not there in that moment, he's not physically present. For some of you, you feel that pain because he's never been there.

And when Isaiah tells King Ahaz, “There is a Father, He's an Everlasting Father, He will never leave you. He will never die. He has existed into the past for eternity. He knows how you were made. He will exist into the future for eternity. He knows what happens next. He knows how everything works. This Counselor knows everything past, everything future, knows everything about you, everything that happened to create you, everything that's happened to you since then. He is an Everlasting Father that will, as the Scripture says, never leave you and never forsake you; never ever, ever fail you. Are you starting to want the name of Jesus in your life? Are you starting to feel thankful that He says unto us?

And then He wraps it up by throwing one more name in there, He says Prince of Peace. And you and I look—and we're gonna talk a little bit more about this next week because the weight and the burden of this statement is we look at the world we have right now. Jesus has come and Jesus has come and died on the cross to forgive us, and for many of us He has come into our lives, and for many in this room we go, “Where is the peace?” We're gonna talk about that some more next week and I want you to come back, we want to talk about that next week, but here's what I want you to hear today. For many of us peace means the fighting has ended, the tensions have ended, and so this is very much an external thing. Like, if somehow there could be peace in my life all these bad things externally could be solved. But instead what I want to share with you is that the fight that we're really fighting is one that is internal. We were a people born with sin and as a result of having been born with



sin we were separated from God and that separation with God is what's messing with all these relationships. So it's causing your kids to do this [*bumps his fists against each other*]. It's why you're having a problem with one of your relatives. It's why you're having issues at work. It's why you have health issues and sickness. And yet when we read about this Prince of Peace, we read in Ephesians 2:14, it says this:

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

~ EPHESIANS 2:14

That sin nature that we were born with was that dividing wall of hostility. When Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood He offers that forgiveness to us. If we receive that forgiveness of sin God declares us righteous because of Jesus, and that dividing wall of hostility that has been keeping peace from happening between us and God is removed and something changes inside of each one of us. I love these words, the words of Jesus, John 14:27, they're words that I want to fall over you. Jesus says:

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

— He says —

Not as the world gives do I give to you.

— and then He says —

Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

~ JOHN 14:27

Don't be afraid, believe in God, believe also in Me. You and I have access to peace through this child that is born, through this name Jesus that is greater than all the outer turmoil and conflict that we divine as war and a lack of peace. He is greater than the pain of finances and the pain of relationships. Jesus wants to reign and rule as King in your life. Listen to these words Philippians, Chapter 4, verse 7:

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,

— this is not something that you and I can wrap our brain around it —

will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~ PHILIPPIANS 4:7

I will tell you right now that for most of us we're looking for an emotional peace that somehow would let us know that there is peace. We're looking for a physical peace that would say that there's peace. But when I read these words the peace that passes all understanding, I realize that this is a miraculous peace and it's only purchased through the blood of the cross at Calvary; that when we receive it, it changes all.

That's why when people look onto you and they say something is different. Shout out the name of Jesus because it's the only way anything is different. It's the only way anything can stay different. Why can you be so peaceful in this mess? And you're in the middle of a busy season at work, you're in middle of a stressful time in your marriage, you're dealing with an issue with your kids, you're dealing with some health issue that is just unbelievable, you never saw that coming, and someone says, "How can you look so peaceful?" Why is it that you do feel peaceful? Why is it that you're not freaking out at this

moment? You're a little shocked to yourself. Speak the name of Jesus because it is that, that peace that passes all understanding, that miraculous peace, that comes from Jesus. What the world tells you is peace is not peace, and you will never understand peace until you find the peace that Jesus gives you for their forgiveness on the cross. If you've never received that, I just beg of you, trust Him today. Say, "Jesus, I want that. Forgive me, the blood of the cross, forgive me by your Son Jesus. Come into my life."

Now as I was thinking about this message this week I wanted this to be more than just a shout-out to Jesus. I want you to take who Jesus is and the name of Jesus and it to become big in your life. That it will become every part of your life. You say, "Well, how can that be? Is it just through speaking it?" That's part of it. "Is it just reading the Bible?" Yes. "And getting to know Him?" Yes. "That relationship?" Yes. But when I read those words Wonderful Counselor there were a couple experiences this week that must have happened over and over and I think it's because God wants me to talk to you about this this week.

All through my life I have had this wonderful little hack in life and the hack was this is: I know a lot of people and every time I need to figure out something I find the expert in that area. I remember when I was a kid my family said, "Can you put electric lights in our basement, and like, finish the electrical in our basement?" I didn't know how to do that, so I went to my friend's dad. I said, "How do you do that?" He drew on a piece of paper and said this is how electric flows and this is how you connect into it, and this is what you do, and this is where you put this and this is where you put that." I took that little tiny piece of paper and went home and wired our basement. Now, there was a bad moment in all of that. I cut through a 220 line, that is why I'm a little whacked today, things aren't quite right but it's okay. You're not quite right either. [Laughter] I know it standing up here, I can see you. But seriously, those of you in this room know. I come to you, I ask, I don't know a lot of things, I just have really smart people all around here. That's why I love our staff. That's why I love our elders. That's why I love you guys. I'm just constantly asking questions and I'm quoting you, too, and you know it; a problem hanging around a pastor.

There were a number of things that came across my mind this week where I'm like, "I need to find someone to ask," and there were a couple things where I was like, "I don't know who to ask." Like, I feel like I've asked the most important person already. I feel like I've asked the expert. I don't know who's more of an expert over this area. But thinking about it and I want to just tell you I think that happened two or three or four times this week and it was in that moment there was this reminder: Wonderful Counselor. Do I believe it or am I just like Ahaz? I'll go create my own altar, I've got all my peeps, I'll ask them. Or do I really believe I have a Wonderful Counselor? I have to just tell you there have been a bunch of times I've just addressed Jesus by those words this week. I said, "Jesus, You're my Wonderful Counselor, so here's my question. Can I throw that to you? I know it seems really simple but the text says to me, unto us, accept Him. Accept Him in your life and when you have accepted Him in your life let Him guide you through every aspect of your life.



And so Jesus, I bow before You right now as the Wonderful Counselor and I bring before You my brothers and sisters in this room. There are some in this room who are lonely, there some who are anxious, there are some who are feeling some incredible pain of guilt, there are some who don't know how to figure out some financial issues with Christmas on the way. There's some relational things that are just outstanding that are just upsetting

WHERE CAN I FIND PEACE?

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them deeply in this room right now. And we don't know who to go to and now we're reminded, yes, there's a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

O Jesus, I pray that you would be our Wonderful Counselor and that the peace that passes all understanding, miraculous peace would invade this place and each of the people in this room that reach out to receive that right now. We ask this in the strong name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has come to us. Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Let's speak those words out loud, Wonderful Counselor, Jesus.

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