

Intro: One day Jesus was talking with his disciples and he said this:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
John 16:33

Knowing that truth...and personally experiencing that truth are two very different things! We can intellectually agree that God "Leads us beside still waters", but when the storm is raging around us, and we don't know what direction to go, it's awfully difficult to hold onto that promise and truly believe it!

That is the essence of what we find in Psalm 23:2" *"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...he leads me beside still waters!"*
Tonight I want to think with you about three different ways God makes His peace effective in our life. 3 ways that we are able to actively experience the peace of God when you need it.

1. God He Leads Us To A Peaceful Place.

Psm 23:2

- He leads:

>Sheep are not like cattle. They are not DRIVEN...they are LED! (When you drive you frighten, scatter and lose)
>God Leads us Gently: Peacefully: The word that is used here is a word for "gentle guidance!"
That is the way Jesus leads us, isn't it? He doesn't force, coerce, demand
>He leads us with a "still small voice" Which means we have to be listening!

1 Kings 19:11-13 Not in fire, earthquake, storm:

We want him to speak in dramatic ways...sometimes...often quietly
And because we aren't paying attention, not listening, so much noise

Applic: One of the reasons it is so very important for us to have silence...is because we need the silence to hear his voice!
God speaks through silence!

"In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Then you will know that you are nothing. It is only when you realize your nothingness, your emptiness, that God can fill you with Himself. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence." Mother Theresa

2. God Brings Peace To A Place And Circumstance That Seems To Be Out Of Control.

Mark 4:39

You know what is like, right? When it seems that everything around you is lost in chaos and confusion. Sometimes we get so confused, because we don't know which direction to take, what action comes next.

Mark 4:35-41 Pg 710

Notice:

>They weren't there by accident: Jesus PUT them in the boat! 35: It was HIS idea they were there
>Storm was bad enough for fisherman that knew the water to be afraid
>The circumstances caused them to doubt His care for them (We all do that!)
>Jesus wasn't concerned at all (He was asleep!) Ever feel like God is sleeping when you are going down?
>Jesus has the capacity to calm the storm...the circumstances are totally within His command "Stop your foolishness"
>Jesus was building their faith and trust in Him...which is what he does for us.

Applic: Couple weeks ago Darlene and I were praying for our daughter Steph.

"I need Him to show up...I know He can..." We both had the sense he would...and He did
I know He doesn't always...but...We can Always ASK Him to Calm the storms in our life

3. God Sometimes Stills Our Soul And Bring Us Peace In the Middle Of Our Storm.

Psm 4

- He sometimes leads us to peaceful place
- Sometimes brings peace to the circumstances
- Sometimes brings US peace in the circumstances

Look at how the David teaches us to pray in Psalm 4

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>Ask God for what you need...ask Him for an answer: Lit = Pay attention to me...SEE me, hear me
>Draw on His character: Righteous God: The one who always does what is right and just
>Give me relief: Lit = have mercy on me; bend down and give me favor
>Pray in faith: The Lord WILL hear me when I call out to him! Jesus said, when you pray, believe!
>Be careful to not do the wrong thing...Don't take matters into your own hands, Do it yourself!
>Search your heart and be SILENT! "Wait for God!" Lit = hold your peace and be still!
>Understand that HE is the one that brings peace...and security...lay down and sleep in peace while you wait!

Psm 46:10 "Be still and know that I'm God"

Psm 131:2 "But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul"

CONCL: How do you do that? Take the worksheet: Practice Silence:

Here in the quiet before communion, Listen: Ask God...Which of the three do you want to do in my life today?

1. Lead me to a quiet, peaceful place? "Is he calling you to create a time and place of regular quiet in your life to hear him?"
2. Does he want to bring peace to some circumstances in your life out of control? Ask Him to do that! STILL THE STORM!
3. Does He want to bring YOU peace in the midst of the storm? If you have that...storm doesn't matter! *In this world you will*