

nov 27, 2022

"peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." john 14:27

story on peace

there once lived a very wealthy man who was willing to pay a small fortune to the artist who could best illustrate the presence of peace. several artists brought paintings of sunsets and quiet meadows, but the man did not accept any of these. one day as he was walking through looking at the most recent attempts, two paintings captured his attention.

one was a painting of a beautiful calm lake surrounded by lush green mountains. the water seemed as still as glass and wispy white clouds danced in the bright blue of the sky. next to this painting was another with vast differences. it was also a picture of a lake surrounded by mountains, but the strong winds had whipped the lake into a tempest and the dark clouds hovered about the rugged mountain landscape ready to release a downpour of torrential rains.

the audience standing about watched with anticipation to see which one the man might choose to depict the story of peace. all were shocked when he did not choose the first, but instead chose the second. how could such a stormy scene tell a story of peace?

the rich man explained. the first painting was beautiful and peaceful, but it didn't tell the truth of

where peace can be found. anyone could feel peaceful upon a crystal-clear lake with white clouds drifting across the sky and barely a breeze blowing across the water.

then he pointed out something in the second painting which everyone else had overlooked. if you peered closely into the mountains of the second, there was a waterfall, and tucked into a crevice of that mountain near the waterfall was a small nest on which a mother bird sat upon tiny blue eggs.

the man spoke. "this second painting is a picture of true, perfect peace because it is within the storms of life we find real peace tucked into the side of God knowing His presence will guard and protect us even in the midst of this world's storms."

-- author unknown

-----

you may be in the storm but the storm doesn't have to be in you. there is a peace that passes understanding. it is a strong, resolute faith and confidence, that no matter what circumstances you encounter, God is faithful, God is good, God will keep you, God will provide for you, and God will bless you. it's a faith that looks past circumstances to the God who works all things for your good and his glory.

be strong. be resolute. hold fast that which was given you!