

**Monday, November 28, 2016**

This time of year can be anything but peaceful. Just look at all the fights and lines surrounding Black Friday sales. Families are making plans to run from home to home, fulfilling all those relational Holiday expectations. Throw in seasonal illnesses, sporting events, and various programs and you have a recipe for burnout.

Two painters were asked to paint a picture illustrating the concept of peace. The first painted a beautiful scene of a lake, its surface as calm as glass. Trees surrounded it, meadows stretched away in the distance, with a little cottage and a setting sun--all representing perfect rest. The second painter, however, drew a stormy scene. Heavy black clouds hung overhead. He included an immense waterfall pouring huge volumes of water. You could almost hear the roar. But with all this, perhaps the first thing to strike the eye was a small bird, perched in a cleft of a huge rock, absolutely sheltered. The little bird stood calmly singing. It's the second picture that best portrayed a Biblical peace.

The world is full of voices screaming that their method, their financial program, their books, their philosophy, etc. are the way to lasting peace in the human heart. But there is only one voice that can truly calm the storms of life.

**Mark 4:37-40 And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. 38 Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" 39 And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm."**

A popular Christian song some years ago made this statement, "Sometimes He calms the storm, and sometimes He calms His child." Lasting peace can only come when we trust that God is in control.