



## **Scripture Nugget – Ordering our lives for true peace**

*A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill made low; the rugged land shall be a plain, the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:3-4).*

***Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid (John 14:27).*** It is significant that Jesus greeted His disciples with peace only after His resurrection. Before the victory over sin was accomplished for us by Christ, true peace is not possible when sinful souls are still under slavery to sin. Thus, it is only through Christ's redemptive act of His Death and His Resurrection that we, repentant souls can be given true peace – peace of heart, peace of mind, peace of soul. Thus, Jesus says the peace He gives to us is not the peace of this world. The world cannot give us peace because it has no power to take away our sins. The true peace of Christ comes from the victory over sin, eternal death and hell, and a restoration of the broken relationship with God, our Heavenly Father. When we look for peace in our hearts, the first step we should take is an honest look at our lives. Is there anything in our lives that opposes God or anything that He stands for?

**Putting order back into our lives.** There may be key issues in our lives that throw the order of our lives askew, and block God's graces. Is there an illicit relationship that is sinful but which I am unwilling or too weak to give up? Is there an unhealthy obsession or bondage to the things of this world: money, power, fame, drink, gambling, drugs, luxury goods, consumerism, materialism, reputation, career, unhealthy entertainment and amusement, etc. Is my heart laden with emotional ailments: anger, unforgiveness, hatred, pride, grudges, brokenness, sadness, despair? Is my faith hampered by lukewarmness, complacency, apathy, indifference? To those with an illicit relationship, Jesus said to them as He said to the woman caught in the act of adultery: Go and sin no more (cf. John 8:11). To those who spend all their time engrossed with the things of this passing world, the Lord says: Beloved, please understand that you cannot find real peace and fulfillment in worldly things or people. Your heart was made for me (cf. Colossians 1:17) and to find its rest in Me. Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened and you will find rest for your souls (cf. Matthew 11:28). Put Me first in your life and you will lack nothing you need (cf. Matthew 6:33) and will have a great indestructible hope for your future (cf. Ephesians 1:5). To those who harbor hatred and unforgiveness in their hearts, the Lord says: Forgive and you will be forgiven (cf. Matthew 6:14). To those with brokenness in their hearts, the Lord says: Your wounds are healed by My Wounds (cf. Isaiah 53:5).

**Conversation with JESUS:** Precious Lord, You are the Lord of my life. My existence is for the praise of Your glory (cf. Ephesians 1:12). I consecrate my life, my heart and my mind to You in order that I may have true peace in this life and an indestructible hope for the coming one. Be pleased to demolish the mountains and hills of pride and self-centredness and fill in valleys of emptiness in the landscape of my poor heart. Make a straight, level highway in my heart, demolishing all obstacles of sin, temptation, distractions as I prepare my heart to receive You again this Christmas. May the new borne Baby Jesus find a warm manger in my newly transformed heart. Mary, Mother of Baby Jesus, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.