**NOT! AFRAID – We have peace!**

**Many are struggling being home. Especially difficult because we were not created to be alone. Isolation is dangerous.**

**As you know... The coronavirus (Covid-19) is spreading – the obvious**

**Stock market is dropping / Schools shutting down / Sporting events, concerts, conferences are canceling / Travel bans / Grocery stores are out of stock**

**Resturant closing - people are losing jobs. We already know this…**

**What should we do? How should we respond?**

**I’ll want to speak into this from a Faith-Perspective**

**\*\*Even though we cannot meet physically, we can meet digitally**

**What should we do? How should we respond?**

**Ignore it or stockpile it (Under-reacting / over-reacting?)**

**First, we should not make any long term, permanent decisions. Live day to day - make decisions with what we know daily.**

**Matthew 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.**

**In times of crisis and panic, it’s best not to project the future. Make decisions based on what we know today.**

**As disciples of Jesus, the filter that forms our decisions is different.**

**Why? We are not of this world! We are not to conform to this world. We have the mind of Christ. We see this life and eternity different.**

**We are not to live in fear we are to not be afraid. Do Not Fear**

**TITLE of today’s message is - NOT! Afraid - I give you peace!**

**Remember – years ago – NOT! It eventually became annoying.**

**Philippians 4:6 Do not (not!) be anxious (worry of the unknown) about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, (learn to praise God) present your requests to God. (tell him how you feel) 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** **(When life is painful – and a mystery- PRAY!)**

**When you feel anxious, alone, or afraid – PRAY! Talk to Jesus!**

**THREE WAYS WE ARE NOT LIKE THIS WORLD**

**A challenge to disciples of Jesus…**

**1) We walk by faith, not by fear**

**When you get up – what is your mindset / when you get dressed – when you hold your kids… how are you walking?**

**When Jesus was comforting his disciples about big change – he was to die – life will never be the same - John 14:1 “Do not (not!) let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. (I am preparing a place for you – they asked how will we know the way to where he is…) 6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (goes on to explain - I will give you the Holy Spirit to comfort you, remind you and teach you) 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not (not!) give to you as the world gives. Do not (not!) let your hearts be troubled and do not (not!) be afraid. (I like the way the NLT translates v.27 “I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So, don’t be troubled or afraid.)**

**Some of you need to open this gift – this is for you! Peace that goes beyond human understanding… peace of mind & heart.**

**God’s was not sitting in heaven thinking “I didn’t see that coming. I turn my head for one second…”**

**God is faithful! He’s in control! He is good! Our God has a plan! He won’t leave us. He won’t forsake us. He’s working in all things for our good… He will not leave you or forsake you… He is with you! Our God is present - I do not need to be afraid!!**

**2 Timothy 1:7 God has not (not!) given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (We are not panicking - we chose Peace, We are not fearful - we have faith!) As 2 Corinthians 5:7 says - For we live (walk) by faith, not (not!) by sight. (We live by faith, not by fear (repeat)**

**2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not (not!) crushed; perplexed, but not (not!) in despair; 9 persecuted, but not (not!) abandoned; struck down, but not (not!) destroyed.**

**We are not crushed! We are not in despair!**

**We are not abandoned! We are not destroyed!**

**And because of that we are NOT AFRAID!**

**2) We are sacrificial, not selfish**

**Technically without Christ – we are selfish. Kids are naturally selfish… By nature. You have to reach them to not be…**

**But our redeemed nature in Christ is to reflect his nature!**

**Phil 2:3 Do not (not!) be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Do not (not!) look out only for your own interests, (don’t freak out take the last items…) but take an interest in others, too. (look out for others!)**

**During the early church, they faced extreme persecution. Losing life for their faith! 1st Century Christians didn’t hoard beans & TP! Weren’t rushing the Jerusalem mega-mart to grab emergency supplies!**

**We are the body of Christ - we put others ahead of ourselves!**

**After Jesus was crucified – the early church was the next target of Rome and the Jewish sector – what did they do? Acts 2:44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. (in the coming weeks you will possibly have more opportunity for generosity than ever before) 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. (virtual gatherings) They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts…**

**Every day they continued to meet - It’s time to move from a weekly weekend faith to a daily faith! Every day! Virtual it’s possible.**

**\* Daily posts and interaction on FB and Instagram**

**\* Every Tue & Thur I will do a live Q&A at 2pm on FB**

**\* Mon nights at 7pm Zoom Bible study**

**\* Tue nights – Zoom Zone gatherings**

**\* Wed night – Youth coming soon / Life Teams Zooms!!**

**\* Rightnow Media kids programing available now!**

**This is a time when some people will skip church since we don’t meet!**

**Our community of faith is a spiritual refuge for people in need.**

**Attend online - Don’t stop worshiping - Don’t stop seeking God!**

**We know a lot of people looking for hope!**

**We may have to shut the doors – but we can’t shut down the gospel! We will never stop preaching the gospel & bringing hope!**

**Sacrificing and serving others and being Jesus hands & feet!**

**Acts 2:46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

**With all my heart, I believe God will use this time to lead people to Jesus! Adding people daily!!**

**We live by faith, Not by fear - We are sacrificial, Not selfish - and**

**3) We shine the light, we do not hide**

**During this time, people will be afraid… unsettled… anxious…**

**Looking for hope – Good news is - We are HOPE DEALERS!**

**Matt 5:14 “You (disciple of Jesus) are the light of the world. (our world) A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. (our city) 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. (our house) 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**

**WE ARE - Hope Dealers—Light shiners—Love givers!**

**This virus may be highly contagious, but I’m praying Christians to be more contagious. Spreading hope - love - life in Christ!**

**I’m believing the love & hope of Jesus will spread faster than any virus!**

**We shine – We do not hide!!! The bible tells us…**

**We are not (not!) of this world…**

**We are not (not!) overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good…**

**We are not anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving – walk in the peace of God that passes all understanding…**

**We do not live by bread alone, but by the very word of God…**

**We do not grow weary in doing god…**

**We do not store up treasures for ourselves… but store up in heaven**

**We do not struggle and war against the flesh, but against spiritual authorities…**

**We do not shrink back and are destroyed, but live by faith and are saved!**

**We do not grieve or panic like those who have no hope…**

**We do not worry about tomorrow for God holds our tomorrow and today…**

**We do not set our minds on earthy things, but on things above…**

**We do Not walk by sight - We walk by faith…**

**We do not have a spirit of fear… DO NOT - DO NOT - DO NOT - FEAR!**

**And we - We will not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus, for it is the power of God to save and the only hope of the world!**

**Peter and John arrested and told to stop speaking of Jesus… Acts 4:17 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.” (spiritual social distancing) 18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! 20 As for us, we cannot (not!) stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”**

**Like 1st century believers in book of Acts…**

* **We can’t stop praising – we can’t stop worshiping**
* **We can’t stop growing – we can’t stop giving**
* **We can’t stop preaching – we can’t stop telling others**
* **We can’t stop sharing – we can’t stop shinning!**

**We will not stop talking about what we’ve seen and heard!**

**Easter is in 2 weeks – will be awesome!!!**

**We live by faith—Not by fear / We are sacrificial—Not selfish**

**We shine the light—We do not hide it!**

**Psalm 9:9 The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. 10 Those who know your name trust in you, (We don’t trust someone you don’t know.) for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.**

**Those who know your name… Do you know his name? Do you know the only name by which man can be saved? Jesus!**

**Whatever you’re going through – can you sense his presence?**

**Calling you – inviting you? You can know his peace today!!**

**Some of you might be afraid – and you need peace.**

**It is found in only Jesus and you can know him right now.**