

Wednesday, April 1

Scripture reading: John 14:27

I chose this one Bible verse rather than a whole passage because it is so powerful. Jesus spends many of his last hours on earth talking to his disciples about his Father's will for him. I imagine that the disciples felt many emotions as they spent time listening to Jesus speak of leaving them. They probably experienced feelings of sadness, fear, and great uncertainty. Perhaps they wondered what would become of them. What would their lives be like without Jesus? Maybe the disciples felt some confusion when Jesus said he would soon leave them but they would see him again. What did that mean?

Jesus gives the disciples, and all of us, a wonderful gift. Peace. Jesus isn't speaking about peace from hostility or peace from our enemies. Rather, he speaks of peace with a sense of calmness and assuredness that comes from faith in God. It is a sense of peace that, to me, means no matter what trials and tribulations come our way here on earth, ultimate peace is our gift from God because he loves us so dearly. The world's sense of peace usually involves physical and emotional comforts. The peace Jesus leaves us with goes much deeper than that because it is grounded in God, not in earthly circumstances.

Jesus has this peace himself, even though he knows he will be put to death soon. His focus now is on his return to the Father and that gives him great joy. His heart is not troubled, he is not afraid. He wants his disciples to experience this joy, too.

What ways do you experience God's peace in your life? What fears cause you true worry, to have a troubled heart? Do you have ultimate trust in Jesus's assurance, even in today's world of uncertainty?

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to feel your gift of true peace, not in material comforts but in your love for me. Teach me to help others know that peace as well. Amen

Written by Angi Resch