

Have we underestimated the presence of peace in our world?

Advent. Christmas. Peace. Fleeting. Hold on! Share ... His peace.

Last week we drove 6+ hours to the South Shore of Boston to visit our daughter and family. A brief but wonderful visit. We drove back on Saturday. One of the busiest travel days of the year, taking an extra 2 hours. Not at all peaceful. The roads were dry yet full of multiple accidents. People in a hurry. Little peace and too much haste.

I'm reminded of Luke 10. Jesus sends 72 out in pairs of 2. Jesus tells them to travel light and to look for people of peace. A person of peace. How will we recognize them? Perhaps more importantly, will I be recognized as a person of peace? In a world with too little peace and too much haste, how might I become a person of peace?

Each weekday morning I settle into a corner table at a favorite coffee shop. I guess I am rather predictable. As I walk in greeting the regulars at their "reserved tables", one of the staff places my preferred coffee order in front of me and says "Here you go!" I smile as I pay and realize they have come to expect me every morning.

And then I felt as if the Spirit prompted me to remember this Jesus story from Luke 10. Do I enter this coffee shop as a person of peace? Surrounded by busy staff, and countless people as they come and go can my brief interactions as I sit working at a corner table bring peace – His peace?

And then I again felt the Spirit prompting me to pray. Ellen and I soon leave the country of our birth. Sent by Jesus, the church and our friends. Sent to people whose language and culture we do not know. The prayer? That we would go as people of peace. His peace.

Before we know their language. As we learn their culture. Pray that we will go as people of peace – His peace. The peace of God and the God of peace. Recognized and understood and longed for by the human soul in every culture and language.

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