

The Jottings of a Farmer 心耕隨筆

26 March 2026

My Peace I give unto you!

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27) Jesus promised to give us peace. Yet what has been happening around the globe in the first three months of 2026 has already led us to question this promise: presidents and heads of state have been kidnapped and murdered; nations have been invaded without authorization; and hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, many of whom are children, are being killed every day. Their lives are endangered, and it seems there is no way out. We may ask, "What peace did Jesus give us?"

The death and Resurrection of Jesus symbolize His victory over death. Through Him, the Kingdom of God comes upon us. If the Kingdom of God has already come, why are chaos and war everywhere, and why is there no peace? Perhaps we should study the verse carefully. The second half of the verse states, "I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." There are two points we need to pay attention to.

First, Jesus stated explicitly that the peace He gives unto us is different from what the world understands. Though peace is defied in the world, we can still find it in our hearts if we walk in the way of God. Second, Jesus reminded us not to let our hearts be troubled and not to be afraid. The Kingdom of God does not come and replace the old order in a second. Rather, its completion is a process. Throughout the process, we may feel troubled in our hearts and be afraid. That is why Jesus encouraged us to fix our hope on Him. Indeed, throughout the Bible, we can find many clues indicating that the completion of the Kingdom of God is a process, like the Parable of the Mustard Seed.

A pastor has used a parable to help us understand the concept of the Kingdom of God. During World War II, the Allies landed in Normandy on 6 June 1944, which was called D-Day (Decisive Day). The success of the Allies marked a milestone on the path to victory over Nazi Germany. However, final victory did not come until the fall of Berlin nearly one year later, which was called VE-Day (Victory in Europe Day). Between D-Day and VE-Day, the Allies still had to struggle on the way to Berlin. Jesus' death on the

cross and His Resurrection certainly mark the coming of the Kingdom of God. Yet there is still time before its completion. For Christians, we are not just sitting and waiting; our participation in the process is expected. One of the prayers at our baptism reminds us, "Strike against sin, the world, and the devil under the flag of God. Be a loyal soldier and servant of Christ throughout your whole life."

Boys and girls, you may ask what we should do, since we are not world leaders. We do not need to be world leaders to have peace in our hearts. We do not need to be great presidents to participate in the work of building the Kingdom of God. Our Lord reminds us to light our own candle within our families, among our neighbors, and with anyone near us, so that His name will be glorified when others see our good deeds. Perhaps the resignation of Joe Kent, a top counter-terrorism official, gives us a good example. Not being able, in good conscience, to justify or support the unrighteous war against Iran, he tendered his resignation. This act required a great deal of courage, as it may have meant the end of his political career. Still, he chose to do so, and I believe his action brought him peace in his heart. Let us pray for wisdom and courage from our Lord, so that we will know how to choose the right path in times of trial and temptation.

Jesus' death and Resurrection mark a new era in the coming of the Kingdom of God. His Kingdom will certainly be fulfilled and completed. Let us all walk in the way of God. Let our candle light up those around us, so that our neighbors may feel and understand God's love and compassion.

Emmanuel!

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我留下平安給您們！

耶穌說：「我留下平安給你們，我將我的平安賜給你們。我所賜的，不像世人所賜的。你們心裡不要憂愁，也不要膽怯。」（約翰福音 14:27）耶穌應許賜給我們平安。然而，單單是 2026 年首三個月裡，全球各地發生的種種事件已經讓我們產生了懷疑：總統和國家元首遭到綁架和謀殺，他國遭到軍事入侵，每天有成千上萬的無辜平民慘遭殺害，其中更不乏兒童。他們的生命岌岌可危，似乎看不到任何出路。我們不禁要問，耶穌究竟賜給我們怎樣的平安？

耶穌的死而復活象徵他戰勝了死亡。藉著他，天國降臨在我們世上。如果天國已經降臨，為何到處都是混亂和戰爭，哪有和平可言？或許我們需要仔細研讀這節經文。經文的後半部說：「我所賜給你們的，不像世人所賜的。你們心裡不要憂愁，也不要膽怯。」這裡有兩點我們需要注意。

首先，耶穌明確指出，祂賜給我們的平安與世人所理解的平安不同。雖然我們的世界殊不平安，但如果我們行在上帝的道中，我們仍然可以在內心找到平安。其次，耶穌提醒我們不要憂愁，也不要害怕，天國不會瞬間降臨，也不會立刻取代舊有的秩序，它的實現是一個過程。在這個過程中，我們可能會感到憂愁和害怕。正因如此，耶穌鼓勵我們把盼望寄託在祂身上。正如芥菜種的比喻給我們揭示了天國的實現是「過程」，而「過程」這類線索在聖經中俯拾皆是。

一位牧師用了個比喻來幫助我們理解天國的概念。二戰期間，盟軍於 1944 年 6 月 6 日登陸諾曼底，這一天稱為 D-day (Decisive Day)。盟軍的勝利為日後戰勝納粹德國奠定了基礎。然而，最終的勝利須待近一年後柏林淪陷才正式到來，這一天被稱為 VE-day (Victory in Europe Day)。在 D-day 和 VE-day 之間，盟軍仍在通往柏林的道路上不斷為最終的勝利而奮鬥。耶穌在十字架上的犧牲和復活無疑地標誌著天國的到來。然而，上帝國度的完全實現還需要一段時間。對基督徒來說，我們並非只是坐著等待天國降臨，而是應該積極參與其中。我們在受洗時誦讀的禱文提醒我們「在基督的旗下，奮勇跟罪惡、世俗與魔鬼爭戰，一生作基督忠心的兵士與僕人。」

孩子們，你們或許會問，我們不是世界領袖，我們還可以做什麼呢？其實，我們毋需成為世界領袖才能擁有內心的平安；我們毋需成為偉大的總統才能參與建設

上帝的國度。我們的主提醒我們，要在家人、鄰居和身邊的人身上點燃自己的光，把盼望帶給有需要的人。這樣，當人們看到我們的善行時，就能歸榮耀與基督的聖名。或許，美國高級反恐官員肯特的辭職給了我們一個很好的例子和模範：因著良心的緣故，他無法繼續為伊朗的不義戰爭護航，於是選擇了辭呈。這項英勇之舉需要極大的勇氣，因為這可能意味著他政治生涯的終結。儘管如此，他還是選擇了這樣做，我相信他的行動會為他帶來內心的平安。以他為鑑，讓我們祈求主賜給我們智慧和勇氣，使我們在考驗和誘惑面前，能選擇正確的道路。

耶穌的死而復活標誌著天國降臨的新紀元，祂的國度必將完全實現。讓我們都走在主的道路上，讓我們的光輝照亮身邊的人，在這彎曲悖謬的世代，讓我們的鄰舍也能感受並理解上帝的愛與憐憫。

以馬內利！

二零二六年三月二十六日