

Series: Let's Talk About It

Sermon: Violence

Passage: various

Illustration: "The Language of Violence"

Need: In a world consumed with violence, Jesus calls us to represent Him and His gospel that brings peace.

I. We live in a world characterized by Violence.

- Weather events; Natural disasters; Fires; Wrecks; Crashes
- War (army against army); Genocide (army against civilian)
- Shootings, stabbings, rape, muggings, riots; Law enforcement
- Traumatic injuries, childbirth, sports, entertainment

II. We have a Bible that is filled with Violence.

- Violence is a results of the fall (sin) and not the creation or intention of God.
- God's use of violence is always just, as an extension of His holiness in the form of righteous judgment.
- Human exercise of violence can be either just (as extensions of God's authority - see Romans 13:1-5), or unjust (as a result of human decision or will - see Matt. 26:52).
- Violence in the "name of God" - The Crusades, The Holy Wars, The Inquisitions, Colonial Expansion, etc.

III. We live in a nation that was birthed from Violence and survives through Might.

- We are a people celebrated by the words of Patrick Henry, "Give me liberty or give me death!"
- Manifest Destiny, Annexation of Texas & California territories, Military might
- Cowboy culture, Fictional heroes, 2nd Amendment, "Come and get it,"
- Just war, American justice system

IV. We follow a Savior who calls us to love, compassion, peace, humility, and self-control.

- The Jews expected a Messiah to come with might and power to overthrow their oppressors.
- Jesus came as something entirely different - a lowly, meek, and gentle lamb to be a sacrifice for our sin.
- John 3:17; 17:18; Matt. 5:9, 38-48; Luke 9:51-56; Mark 8:34-35; John 14:27
- John 2:13-17 - What about when Jesus "violently" turns over the tables and drives out the cheaters?
- Rom. 12:19-21; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 6:15; 2 Pet. 3:9

V. We speak into a world who needs to see and hear Jesus.

- Col. 3:17; Matt. 5:16; Eph. 4:29
- In matters of war - Would Jesus delight in the deaths of our enemies?
- In matters of national defense - Would Jesus boast in our ability to ward off any attackers?
- In matters of justice - Would Jesus delight in the punishment of the law breaker?
- In matters of civil rights - Would Jesus say lay down your cross to take up arms?
- In matters of bullying - Would Jesus coach our kids to fight?
- In matters of guns - Would Jesus say you are "living by the sword?"

VI. Let's talk about Violence. Let's represent Jesus with our words.