

Voices on the Train Car

I read a story of a little girl who, when trains were popular transportation, was taking her first train ride with her parents.

As night descended, the mother took the girl, who was clearly quite anxious, and placed her on the upper bunk of the sleeper car. She told her little one that up there she would be nearer to God and that God would watch over her.

As silence enveloped the girl, she became afraid and called softly, “Mommy, are you there?”

“Yes, dear,” came the response.

A little later, in a louder voice, the child called, “Daddy, are you there, too?”

“Yes, dear,” was the reply.

After this had been repeated several times, one of the passengers sharing their sleeper car finally lost his patience and shouted loudly, “Yes, we’re all here – your father, your mother, your brother, and all your aunts and cousins; now settle down and go to sleep.”

There was a moment of silence, and then, in hushed tones, a little voice asked, “Mommy, was that God?”

You may be someone who has had little doubt about God’s presence in your life. You may be someone who has felt comfort from God. You may be well acquainted with peace. If you are one of these people, you are one of a few, for most people fear. They fear the darkness, they fear the day, they fear people, the law, family, friends, enemies, life and death. You name it. Fear is all around us.

So, Jesus made it clear to His disciples that He wanted them to have peace and that He would leave that peace with them.

How do we receive this peace? Jesus is straightforward. It is through obedience. Those who obey His word will receive His peace. Obedience is what we give in order that we might receive the peace that Jesus gives.

“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word,” Jesus said, “and My Father will love him and we will come to him and make our home with him” (John 14:23).

And then He spoke about peace: *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid* (John 14:27 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter