New Beginnings Community Church
Date: December 21, 2025
Speaker: Senior Pastor Hurmon Hamilton

The Missing Peace: An Unsettling Question At Christmas
Scripture used: [Matthew 2:2-5;7](#) [Colossians 3:17](#)

OVERVIEW

At the heart of Advent is a simple prayer:
"Come, Jesus, come."

This prayer acknowledges that while Jesus has come, we still deeply need His presence, His healing, and His peace in our everyday lives. Scripture tells us that Jesus is our peace. The biblical word for peace—**shalom**—is not just the absence of conflict, but the presence of wholeness, restoration, and harmony with God and others. Shalom is what keeps us from falling apart when life feels like it's coming apart.

If Jesus lives in us, then peace must no longer be something we merely *receive*—it must become something we *release*. We are called to be **representatives of Jesus**, carrying His peace into our homes, workplaces, churches, and communities.

This leads us to an unsettling but necessary Christmas question:
Am I the missing peace?

KEY POINTS

1. When you enter a room—at home, work, church, or with family—what changes? Does the atmosphere grow lighter or heavier? Do people feel safe or tense? We may not always notice it, but our presence carries something with it. Like a string of Christmas lights, when one bulb is missing or broken, the entire strand is affected. In the same way, when peace is missing in us, it impacts everyone around us. And when we recognize that peace is lacking in our hearts, our response is not shame, but prayer: *"Come, Jesus, come. Heal me and increase Your peace in me."*

2. WHEN PEACE IS MISSING: HEROD'S EXAMPLE
Herod's response to the birth of Jesus reveals what happens when peace is absent. Scripture tells us that he was deeply disturbed—and so was all Jerusalem—because inner turmoil never stays contained. Though Herod held power and position, he lacked peace. He was threatened by a baby because when peace is missing, we become self-centered, easily threatened, prone to misinterpret situations, and quick to react out of fear rather than faith. Herod had authority, influence, and resources—but no shalom. And when Jesus shows up as King, He is not just King of our lives; He is King of the universe.

3. THREE WAYS WE MAY BE THE MISSING PEACE

The Chronic Critic

The chronic critic is always noticing what's wrong instead of what's right. When this person enters the room, others brace themselves.

Practice of Peace:
Let grace be your first response, not your last.

<u>The Anxious Controller</u>

The anxious controller believes peace comes from control. At the root is fear—not trust.

Practice of Peace:
Release control and trust God with the outcomes.Peace grows when we remember that God is sovereign—and we are not.

<u>The Conflict Avoider</u>

The conflict avoider values comfort over connection. But avoidance doesn't create peace—it creates distance.

Practice of Peace:
Speak the truth in love. Biblical peace requires courage, not avoidance.

DISCUSSION

1) **HEAR** - When you think about Christmas, what usually disrupts your sense of peace the most—busyness, relationships, expectations, or something else?

2) **UNDERSTAND** - Read [Colossians 3:12-15](). Paul tells us to *let* the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. As you read this passage, what do you notice about the things that either support or compete with Christ's peace in our lives? Where might God be inviting you to surrender control so His peace can truly "rule"? How might our relationships change if peace wasn't just something we felt internally, but something that guided our decisions, words, and responses?

3) **DO** - This week, intentionally choose **one space**—home, work, church, or a relationship—and practice being a carrier of peace.

Choose one action:

- Encourage someone instead of correcting them
- Release control and trust God with an outcome
- Have one honest, loving conversation you've been avoiding
- Pause and pray, *"Come, Jesus, come,"* before responding in a tense moment

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