



Title: The Way of Peace I – the New Wine
Speaker: André Kruger
Date: 29 July 2014
Time: 09:00

The Way of Pain

John G Lake – American missionary to South Africa. **1250 preachers, 625 congregations and 100 000 converts in 5 years.** The exact number of miracles that occurred in his ministry could never be counted. And these **were the results of just five years of ministry!** Yet: in South Africa, *Lake was stunned with the most devastating news he had ever encountered on December 22, 1908. While he was ministering in the Kalahari Desert, his beloved Jennie did.*

Most accounts of Jennie Lake's passing attribute her death to malnutrition and physical exhaustion. When John was away, scores of sick people would wait on his lawn until he returned, and Jennie would feed them while they waited with what little food she could spare. She did all that she could to make their stay as comfortable as possible until her husband's return. And in so doing, she neglected her own physical needs.

Lake had become so absorbed in ministering to others that he wasn't aware of what was happening to the health of his own wife. / The children, all 7, felt greatly neglected and became hardened by bitterness.

****Lake grieved his lack of attention to his children. And he would later write in a letter that the many miracles wrought at his hands were personally unfulfilling and not worth the loss of his family.**

The Way of Peace – taking a stand

If you don't take a stand for what truly matters, you'll fall for things that don't matter at all.

****Ministry BEGINS at home.**

Relationship IS the mission. There is no success without relational success.

All her paths are Peace - Wisdom

It's very hard to have peace without relational peace. *Wisdom provides us the Way of Peace.

Book of Proverbs. Written by Solomon. His name means "peaceful" and describes his reign. He was known to be the wisest man in all the world. During Solomon's reign there were the least amount of violence in the kingdom. There was peace, because there was wisdom. Wisdom provides the Way of Peace.

Proverbs 3:13–18 (NKJV) ¹³ *Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding;* ¹⁴ *For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold.* ¹⁵ *She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.* ¹⁶ *Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor.* ¹⁷ *Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.* ¹⁸ *She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her.*

When we walk in wisdom, then we will walk in the Way of Peace. Proverbs: Good to be wise, and wise to be good.

New Wine = the goodness of God

Wisdom is to create a container or environment where the goodness of God can manifest. Wisdom is to practically create an environment where relationships can flourish.

Matthew 9:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."*

Wisdom helps us to create a new wineglass or an environment where our relationships can flourish.

***Disclaimer:**

Proverbs 23:29–35 (NKJV) ²⁹ *Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?* ³⁰ *Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of*

mixed wine. ³¹ Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; ³² **At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper.** ³³ Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. ³⁴ Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: ³⁵ “They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. **When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?**”

The Way of Peace – *practical wisdom for creating an environment where your relationships can flourish*

1. **Create capacity** – The wise knows that there is always a solution. They trust in God for wisdom and creativity as to create capacity for the important things of life.
2. **Schedule time with your spouse & kids** - The wise knows that relationships don't happen by chance, it takes deliberate action. Build an environment conducive to harmony.
3. **Be present** – The wise knows that it takes more than being physically in the room to be truly present. The foolish think it's enough to just be in the same house.
4. **Think small deposits often** – The foolish think that they can make up for a year of being absent by one big holiday or big gifts. The Wise knows that small ongoing deposits takes you much further in the relationship (than big every now and again deposits.)
5. **Think long term (sustainability)** – relationships are fragile. The wise are thinking sustainability. They think next generation. **Is the pace you're going at sustainable?**