

# Person of Peace Plan

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(Matthew 10; Mark 6; Luke 10)

Before jumping into the who's and how's of a Person of Peace, it is essential that we understand the Why of a Person of Peace.

The simple answer to the question, "Why should we hope to find a person of peace?" is this, "Jesus, when sending out His first disciples to proclaim the coming of God's Kingdom, told them to have their eyes open to someone whom they would meet who would be foundational to their presence in a given community."

So we must start with these basic ideas regarding a person of peace:

- We don't do it because it's a good strategy. It may be a good strategy but we don't do it *because* of that.
- We must both *anticipate* and *look for the* person of peace.
  - The mere fact that Jesus tells us of the existence of these people gives us room to assume that these people will be there
  - Because they will be there, we need to look for them.
  - The wording Jesus uses is *very* particular
    - If the house is worthy (that is, the people in the house) (Matthew 10)
    - If a "son" or "man" or "person" of peace is there (Luke 10)
  - The proclaiming of the Kingdom isn't hindered by the lack of finding this person
    - Proclamation is both
      - Doing
        - And
      - Speaking
        - It may be that in living the life of the Kingdom
          - The person of peace will see us and be attracted and thereby we will find out way into his or her home
- This is a person who will, in one way or another, bring us into the context in a way which we wouldn't be able to on our own.
  - We will be in some way reliant on this person
  - We won't be in control of anything but the message we bring
- Our assumption can't be that this person will become a Christian but only that he will provide access to the context in which She/He is an influencer

## How did a Person of Peace look in the New Testament?

New Testament examples of the "Person of Peace"

- The Samaritan woman in John 4- She brought the whole city out to hear Jesus and thereby by transformed by Him
- Levi the Tax collector in Mark 2.14-15- He followed Jesus at His command and then, by implication, we see Jesus being invited into the community of tax collectors and sinners, from which Levi must have been
- Another person of Peace is Zacchaeus in Luke 19. Jesus tells him that He will dine at Z's house, a place known for its menagerie of sinners that hung out there.
- Cornelius in Acts 10 is another example of a person of peace. He was a devout man who feared God, gave generously and prayed to God.

- Lydia in Acts 16.15- Heard the message, believed, was baptized and gave the Apostles hospitality

The presence of a person of peace does not imply that the people in the context are ready to receive the Good News but that *the place* is ready to have the Good News preached in it, as evidenced by the presence of the person of peace.

Remember, the people can't believe what they haven't heard (Check out Romans 10)

We can't assume *our* particulars will be the same as in these stories but CAN assume that the continual example in both proposition and living tell us that this is how God works.

He doesn't necessarily do things the same way every time. The norm, though, of His character is that he gives access to a particular community context through a "person of peace," in order that the Good news of the Kingdom can be shown and told in that context.

We must:

- Believe that God can and very possibly will, connect us with this person
- Resist the temptation to control the situation when this person is met and engages us

### Who is a Person of Peace?

#### Signs of a Person of Peace

1. They're not asking you for things for *themselves*.
2. They are going to both *bless you* and show you how *you can bless others*.
3. They're going to have a goodness about them (not Christian but still a "good person" A person who fears God.- Cornelius)
4. They will welcome you into *their* home.
5. There is a high likelihood that they won't look influential. (they have influence but they might not look like it)
  - a. On the one hand we have
    - i. Cornelius- a centurion and well respected
    - ii. Lydia- by implication of her business (purple) rich.
  - b. On the other hand we have
    - i. The Jailer- a, well, jailer
    - ii. Levi and Zacchaeus- Although rich, hated by most "good people" but influential in the lives of the "sick" who needed a Dr.
6. They will be willing for you to accept them (so make sure you do!)
7. They most likely will not be someone we already know.
8. We aren't looking for a "moral" person, as we define "moral" as Christians. We're looking for a righteous person. (You must be willing to live with the tension of being in the world but not of the world. Living among sinners and being accused of being one yourself by other Christians, aka Jesus in Mark 2 and Luke 19, just to name two places)
9. You gain credibility and trust from just being with them

Waiting for a person of peace will force us to rely not on ourselves but on God's sovereignty to bring about the work to which He has called us