

The Gospel of Matthew

Title: Blessed Are The Peacemakers

Text: Matthew 5:9

Introduction: God is a God of peace. The phrase is used in several NT passages to address people. Romans 15:33 "Now the God of peace be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:11 "**Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.**" Philippians 4:9 "**The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.**" There are more than 400 direct references to peace in the Bible and many indirect references to peace.

IA - The facts of human history tell us that peace does not characterize man's nature. John MacArthur notes there are two reasons for this. First, the fall of man. Second, the opposition of Satan. These two operate against the working and sovereignty of God. Someone once said, "*Peace in the moment in history when both sides stop to reload.*"

IB - According to historical data, there have been approximately 14,555 conflicts since the time of Christ. Since 1945, 72 wars and 200 outbreaks of violence. We don't have economic peace, religious peace, racial peace, social peace, family peace or personal peace. There seems to be no end to marches, sit-ins, rallies, protests, demonstrations, riots and wars.

IC - This beatitude calls for God's people to be peacemakers. We're not pacifists. There's an element of defending oneself and others against wicked evil. God's peace has nothing to do with politics, protests, laws or church councils. It's not a peace that's brought about by presidents, political leaders, kings or princes.

POINT 1 - THE MEANING OF PEACE

Peace is more than the absence of strife or conflict. The deepest meaning of the word peace is "*God's highest good to you.*" The most that man's peace can offer you is a truce. Two people who are at odds with each other cannot bring peace until they bring themselves to God. When a believer brings truth to bear upon a world that hates truth, loves lies and falsehood, you can expect conflict. God's standard for peace and righteousness is far above the world's.

An example of conflict that arises is in a marriage, two sinners coming together and conflict will arise. The great enemy of peace is sin. Jeremiah 17:9 "**The heart is more deceitful than all else, And is desperately sick, Who can understand it?**" Isaiah 48:22 "**There is no peace for the wicked, says The Lord.**" To talk of peace without dealing with sin is foolish. Jeremiah 8:11 "**They heal the brokenness of the daughter of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace.**"

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Jesus confronted the woman at the well with her sin, cf. John 4:7-29. As odd as it seems, confronting a person about their sin will bring true peace.

POINT 2 - GOD THE PEACEMAKER

Men are without peace because they are without God. Ephesians 2:14 "For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation." Colossians 1:19-20a "For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross."

Illustration: An oceanographer says the deeper you go in the water the calmer the water is. Storms and waves rage at the surface, but the deeper in the water the more calm. In our life though the storms rage, the circumstances rage, the trials come, the deep, satisfying peace of God, knowing He is working all things together, is true peace.

POINT 3 - BLESSED ARE THE MESSENGERS OF PEACE

The characters of a peacemaker, as noted by John MacArthur:

- He himself has made peace with God, Romans 5:10 "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."
- Peacemakers lead others to make peace with God. The Pharisees weren't examples of this. They were focused on the external, works, keeping of endless laws. An example of the gospel to the Jews, the religious leaders, the gentiles and all is found in Acts 10:36 "As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ" (ESV).
- A peacemakers helps bring peace between men and others, cf. Matthew 5:23-24

POINT 4 - ETERNAL SONSHIP IS THE RESULT OF A PEACMEAKER

John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God." Ephesians 5:8 "For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light." 1 Peter 1:14 "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance."

APPLICATION

God's children will not always have peace in the world. John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." John 16:33 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." Jesus uttered numerous times to His disciples, "Peace be unto you."

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If I can define true peace for the life which I have now, it would be from Philippians 4:7 “**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**” The peace of God surpasses all my human wisdom and understanding, knowing I am a child of the King.

Are you looking for peace in external works?

Are you looking for peace in what you have, do or accomplish?

Would you believe and repent today for true peace in the midst of a troubled and destitute world?