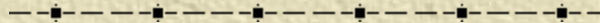




*Real Blessing:
Peacemaking*

Matthew 5:9



Peace be with you

✦ Shalom

- Peace and more
- Health, prosperity, security, friendship, salvation – Well being

✦ Shalom lost

✦ Shalom is no longer natural

✦ From where does peace, Shalom come?

Real Blessing: Purity of Heart

Matthew 5:9

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

What is Peace?

- ✦ Lack of Conflict or War?
- ✦ Peace does not necessarily avoid conflict and does not sacrifice truth
- ✦ Peace is not ignoring the problem
- ✦ Peace does not ignore truth to avoid disunity
- ✦ Peace is going through the dirt and battle to have truth and peace in the end:
 - *Romans 16:20* ²⁰ *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

Harmony

- ✦ Peace seeks harmony between neighbors.
 - This is not a political or pacifism beatitude
- ✦ The Sermon on the Mount is directed at community and face to face relationships
- ✦ Peace between:
 - God and Man
 - Man and Man
- ✦ Paul longs for this:
 - *2 Corinthians 13:11* ¹¹ *Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

Seeking Peace

- ✦ Peacemaking and Reconciliation go hand in hand
- ✦ Peacemaker wants peace
 - Between God and himself
 - Between God and others
 - Between himself and others
 - Between others
- ✦ Peacemakers attempt to build bridges and are not content with animosity

To Be a Peacemaker...

- ✦ We need a new heart
- ✦ God is the one who gives us this new heart
- ✦ We show mercy because God has shown us mercy, we are pure in heart because God has cleansed us from all unrighteousness.
- ✦ We are peacemakers because God has made a way for peace between himself and mankind.
- ✦ Shalom between God and man is restored:
 - *Colossians 1:19-20* ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Peacemakers and Evangelism

- ✦ Peacemakers long to see others have peace with God
- ✦ Peacemakers are not content with those around us being at enmity with God
- ✦ Peacemakers proclaim peace with God to those who do not have it.

Peace with our Neighbor

- ✦ Peace between God and man leads the forgiven sinner to have peace with his neighbor.
 - *Ephesians 2:14* ¹⁴ *For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility*
- ✦ Peacemakers are not grudge bearers:
 - *1 Peter 3:10-11* ¹⁰ *For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.*
 - *Hebrews 12:14* ¹⁴ *Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*

Peace between our Neighbors

- ✦ Peacemakers seek peace between other people.
 - This is not meddling
- ✦ The peacemaker's heart is broken when their neighbors are at war, even if it is a cold war
- ✦ Peacemakers long for there to be peace between those around them.

Tried for Peace and it didn't take

✦ Did you really try?

- Was all sin repented of?
- Was there really forgiveness?

✦ But Peace may not come:

- ***Romans 12:18*** ¹⁸ *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*
- Peace may not come when sharing the Gospel
- Peace may not come when you stand for Truth or confront sin (1 Cor. 11:18-19)

✦ In these times, seek God earnestly

Peacemaker's do not sacrifice God's Word

✦ Purity of life and doctrine takes precedence over peace:

– *James 3:17-18* ¹⁷ *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.* ¹⁸ *And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

✦ Purity of heart leads to Peacemaking

✦ We pursue peace, but there are times when it will not come

The Promise?

✦ Peacemakers will be called children of God

✦ This beatitude does not tell us how to become children of God:

– *John 1:12* ¹² *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

– *Ephesians 2:8-9*

✦ We become children of God through the free grace of God.

Children show their Father's Character

- ✦ God is a God of Peace so we must be people of peace
- ✦ God is a peacemaker, so we must be peacemakers
- ✦ These are not suggestions or nice little additions to the Christian life
- ✦ They are evidence of our adoption
 - Fruit of the Spirit: Galatians 5:22-23
- ✦ Let us faithfully walk in the footsteps of our Father and seek peace.