

The New Testament Church
Blessed are the Peacemakers – Matthew 5:9
November 12, 2023

I Blessed are the Peacemakers – the context of Matthew 5 and the Sermon on the Mount

- A. The Sermon on the Mount – no one knows which mountain Jesus taught it on
 - 1. Only full-length sermon we have recorded in the gospels
 - 2. A Contrast of Rabbinical teaching and Jesus; external behavior vs. heart motive
- B. The Beatitudes – the introduction to the sermon on the mount
 - 1. What it means to be “blessed”
 - a. The Greek means “*grace, obedience*” – rewarded on earth as well as in heaven
 - b. The “spirit” of the law – the heart – will correspond with the fruit “in the culture”
 - c. The “blessed” are the ones on whom the favor of God rests due to their heart condition
 - 2. There are two models presented in the Bible and they are imbedded in verses 9-13
 - a. The first model is liberty – self-government in the garden; and in verse 9 and 13
 - b. The second, but most frequent is the captivity model – a persecution plan...
 - 3. Blessed are the Peacemakers
 - a. The emphasis of Jesus was on peacemaking, not warmaking. *This is significant.*
 - b. Though in spiritual war with evil, “*if it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men*” (Ro. 12:18) – we think war is the answer to everything; not so

II Blessed are the Peacemakers – Matthew 5:9

- A. “**Blessed are the peacemakers...**” (we are not to take personal vengeance out on people)
 - 1. The Greek word for peacemaker is “*to make peace*” – you are an agent to bring peace...
 - a. The word peace, according to Brown’s Bible Dictionary, is “*the state of law and order which gives rise to the blessings of prosperity*”
 - b. Peace is not simply compromise, or a lack of conflict through negotiation, but truth
 - 2. We come to a place of peace with God when we submit to His Law and Order
 - 3. We don’t create the definition of peace, God does - it must be on His terms of truth
- B. The common ground we find with God is through Christ – as God and man...
 - 1. We come to a place of peace with man when we submit to God’s law of reconciliation
 - 2. The common ground is justice, submitting to His work in us so no conviction be compromised
 - 3. Our testimony among those outside the faith must be that we find common ground
- C. The steps for making peace are explained by Jesus (in contrast to the Scribes and Pharisees)
 - 1. We avoid sowing discord when encountering personal conflicts... (see Proverbs 11:13; 17:9)
 - 2. We “turn the other cheek”; avoid “suits”; and “bless when cursed” – personal insults
 - 3. We let go of offenses due to personality and perspectives (we don’t fight over everything)
 - 4. We find common ground... (see Proverbs 18:13; don’t give an answer before you hear)
 - a. Two perspectives can be joined if both are willing to meekly hear one another
 - b. If we release having to be right in every area, love for others will help us find peace
 - c. Peace is not the ultimate goal, but being right with one another (justice) is God’s goal
 - d. God intends the church to model relationships for the outside world (see Mt. 18:15-18)
 - e. We first go privately – we “quarantine” the virus of *discord* (don’t inform new people)
 - f. We then take two or three witnesses – that we may “hear” one another (James 1:19)
 - g. The goal is to gain the other – and only if they refuse to hear and receive...
 - h. *They* are deciding to depart, and this must also be accepted...
 - 5. Spiritually, those who reconcile the lost to God are the children of God – reconciliation
 - a. Naturally, those who act as agents of peace are called children of God by the culture
 - b. They are seen as friends of righteousness and seek objective truth, not just being right

In these turbulent times, it is imperative that we model getting right with God and one another!