

Summer School -

Title – Becoming a Peacemaker

Prayer

Purpose/Review

As we continue in our series...

Let's take a brief moment and review what we've covered so far...

Week one was all about compassion...

Matthew 9:35-36

Jesus was going through all the cities and villages... Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited

Compassion - A suffering with another; painful sympathy; a sensation of sorrow excited by the distress or misfortunes of another; pity (Webster 1828 Dictionary)

Last week we talked about worry...

Matthew 6

34 So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself.

Worry - To feel uneasy or concerned about something

NOTE-

Remember that to fulfill Jesus command not to worry

We are to take our concerns to Him in prayer

And the peace of God will guard our hearts

NOTE-

At first glance these two themes may seem random
But a closer look shows us that they are intrinsically linked

Being filled with compassion for someone can lead to worry

NOTE-

Jesus didn't just feel compassion for the people for they were distressed
He didn't follow up by worrying about how they would be taken care of

No... He sat down and taught them about God

This morning we will add a third point of action to our behavior in the world...

That is taking the role of being a Peacemaker...

SERMON TITLE – Becoming a Peacemaker

QUESTION-

What does the title of the sermon tell you...?

By nature... most of us are no Peacemakers

However... being a Christian... this is a role that we should desire

Reading

Matthew 5

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

Doctrinal

We don't have to look too far to know that the world needs are more peacemakers...

EXAMPLE-

There is a book that was written in 1968
By historians Will and Ariel Durant

Listen to what they wrote at the beginning of the chapter on "History and War."
And keep in mind that this book was written almost 60 years ago

"War is one of the constants of history, and has not diminished with civilization and democracy. In the last 3,421 years of recorded history only 268 have seen no war."

Imagine the history of war if there were more peacemakers...

Peacemakers are not only needed for worldly conflicts...

Peacemakers are need within personal relationships too...

EXAMPLE-

Winston Churchill was Prime Minister of England during World War II
He was one of those politicians that people either loved him or hated him

In on exchange with another politician from the other side of Parliament
The first woman to sit in the British Parliament

Their relationship was famously known for being contentious in nature
Astor and Churchill each possessed a sharp wit

In one of their exchanges it is recorded...

Lady Astor once said to Churchill, "If you were my husband, I'd put poison in your coffee."

Churchill responded with his cutting wit: "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

NOTE-

The reality is that there is conflict everywhere
And until Christ returns there will always be conflict

QUESTION-

What is a Peacemaker?

Peacemaker – Someone who tries to bring peace

QUESTION-

What is the difference between a Peacemaker and a Peacekeeper?

TUESDAY NIGHT's Discussion

Our reading is found at the very beginning of the Sermon on the Mount...

As we have done each week... let us look at our reading in context

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Matthew 5:1-9

Matthew 5

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. 2 He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

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

NOTE-

If we stop and look at each verse individually
We can see that Jesus is describing the character of true kingdom citizens.

QUESTION-

Who are the true kingdom citizens?

Those who claim the title “Christian”

The Greek definition of the word Peacemaker takes on a deeper meaning...

PEACEMAKER (Greek) – one who is in active engagement rather than passive avoidance of conflict.

One who is actively engaged in seeking peace...

Topical Bible Encyclopedia - Peacemakers are individuals who actively seek to reconcile and restore harmony in relationships, communities, and nations. The concept of peacemaking is deeply rooted in the Christian faith, emphasizing the importance of peace as a reflection of God's character and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

“Blessed are the peacemakers” is not a call to passive peace-loving, but to active peace-pursuing—a trait that reflects the very heart of God Himself.... **Dr. Bruce Hurt**

QUESTION-

Who is the greatest Peacemaker of all times...

Jesus....

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

2 Corinthians 5

18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Reconciled – to find favor; to change the relationship of hostile parties into a relation of peace.

Look at our reading again... and notice what else Jesus tells us...

Matthew 5

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

... for they shall be called sons of God...!!!

Continuing in the Topical Bible Encyclopedia...

This statement (this verse) highlights the esteemed position of peacemakers in the Kingdom of Heaven, associating them with divine sonship and favor.

Sign me up... how do we become Peacemakers...?

Three bullet points that we can come up with so far...

True Children Resemble Their Father
Push For Peace
Aim for Purity over Peace

Application

Looking at our first bullet point...

Becoming Peacemakers

1) True Children Resemble Their Father

A bit further into the Sermon on the Mount Jesus tells us just that...

Resemble your Father in Heaven

Matthew 5

48 Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

NOTE-

The call to "be perfect" is the attitudes and behaviors expected of His followers.
The Greek word for "perfect" implies completeness
Or maturity rather than flawlessness.

Strive to become mature in your faith

John tell us to practice in striving for this type of maturity...

1 John 2

29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

Those who strive for righteousness are born of God...

It is the standard for Christian conduct

When we attempt to do this we are trying to imitate the moral perfection of God

Ephesians 5

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us...

This brings us to our second bullet point...

Becoming Peacemakers

1) True Children Resemble Their Father

2) Push For Peace

This idea has to limits or boundaries...

As children of the Most High God

We are to seek peace with everyone that we may encounter...

Matthew 5

43 You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

Notice the similarities with this verse and our reading...

In our reading we must be peacemakers to be called sons of God.

Here, we must love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us

If we would be sons of God.

NOTE-

Peacemaking tries to build bridges to people
It does not want the hostilities to remain

Those who would be Peacemakers want reconciliation
Those who would be Peacemakers want harmony.

And our third bullet point...

Becoming Peacemakers

- 1) True Children Resemble Their Father
- 2) Push For Peace
- 3) Aim for Purity over Peace**

NOTE-

Remember that Jesus is describing kingdom citizens
Today... we would say that He is giving us the job description of a Christian

Look what Jesus says just before telling us "Blessed are the Peacemakers"

Matthew 5

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

NOTE-

The purity is to be found in the "heart"
It should represent our desires and our affections

NOTE-

Purity takes precedence over peace

Purity is the basis of biblical peace.

Purity may not be compromised in order to make peace.

NOTE-

Sometimes seeking peace for all of the right reasons will not work out

Romans 12

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

NOTE-

Paul admits that there will be times
When being a Peacemaker will be impossible.

The reality that peace is not always achievable due to circumstances beyond one's control. It emphasizes personal responsibility in the pursuit of peace, suggesting that believers should do everything within their power to foster harmony... **Berean Study Bible**

NOTE-

Becoming a Peacemaker is not merely the absence of conflict
But a complete sense of well-being and reconciliation
Not only with God but also with others

Blessed are the Peacemakers who pray for their enemies

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God

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

CLOSE