

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS (continued)

Isaiah 36:1-37:1; Matthew 5:9-16

Theme of Matthew: “Behold your King is coming to you” (Zech.9:9-11; Mt.21:4-5)

Theme of the Beatitudes: Christ’s Portrait of His People (John Stott)

Theme of the Sermon on the Mount: Life Styles of the Rich and Famous

REVIEW OF MORNING SERMON

- ✓ Peace in the Bible is rooted in the reversal of God’s curse placed upon Adam and Eve and creation. Only through the cross, can the curse of death be removed (**Isaiah 11:1-10**; 66:25; Imagine World Peace!).
- ✓ Peacemaking involves evangelism both to individuals and nations.
- ✓ Every time you make a prayer request for unsaved family members, friends, or coworkers – you are demonstrating that you are a peacemaker.
- ✓ We will be looking at how the peace in our congregation is a manifestation of the Spirit’s work.
- ✓ Peacemaking is one of the hardest things to do and because of this, it is seldom pursued within the church.
- ✓ Peacemaking sometimes involves confrontation with sin
 - Church discipline (Matthew 18:15-18)
 - Jesus’ scourge of cords and driving the money changers out of the temple was not in the least bit inconsistent with His being a peacemaker!
 - Jesus’ rebuke of the Pharisees (and lawyers) was in no way inconsistent with His being the Prince of Peace (see Luke 11:37-54).

I. WHEN THINKING ABOUT “PEACEMAKERS” WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT JESUS IS SPEAKING ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. WE SHOULDN’T CONFUSE THE WORLD’S “PEACE” WITH KINGDOM PEACEMAKING.



What comes to your mind when you here the word “peace” or “peacemaking” or “worldpeace”?

“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.”
Will and Ariel Durant, *The Lessons of History* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1968), p.81.

II. PEACE IS ROOTED IN THE CROSS, THE MOST VIOLENT ACT IN HISTORY.

Did you know that the preaching of the cross was a political message?

- A. The Gospel of Matthew is about the King and His Kingdom (Matthew 21:5 with Zechariah 9:9-11).
 - a. The first and eighth beatitude focus on the kingdom (Mt.5:3,10).
 - b. The genealogy of Jesus was royal (Matthew 1:1-17).
 - c. Jesus is called the Messiah – meaning “Anointed One.”
 - d. Jesus was born in the royal city of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:5-6 with Micah 5:2).
 - e. The first words of John the Baptizer in Matthew’s Gospel were “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2).
 - f. In the third and last temptation, Jesus is offered the “kingdoms of the world and their glory” (Mt.4:8).
 - g. Kingdom was central to the preaching of Jesus (Matthew 4:17,23).

Isaiah 53:5 (NASB95)

But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our **well-being/PEACE** fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

B. The Sermon on the Mount was a political message!

1. Romans chose the most painful, humiliating, degrading, and excruciating death they could devise for rebels.
2. The charge above Jesus' head was one of insurrection and rebellion against Rome: "Jesus the King of the Jews" (Matthew 27:37).
3. The revolutionary and political message Jesus was preaching was the total reversal of every other messianic pretender who came before and after Jesus.
4. Rome thought that by putting insurgents to the shameful death of crucifixion, they could protect their power and authority over the Jews and the rest of the world. But Rome's putting Jesus to death was really the means by which Jesus would be enthroned.

C. At the cross, God reconciled us to Himself (Romans 5:1,10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; **Colossians 1:19-20a**; cf. Eph.2:13-17).

- ✓ The message of the beatitudes is the message of the kingdom.
- ✓ The message of the kingdom is the message of the cross.
- ✓ The message of the cross is that the most violent act in all history is the source of our peace.

D. Peace in the Bible is rooted in the reversal of God's curse placed upon Adam and Eve and creation. Only through the cross can the curse of death be removed (**Isaiah 11:1-10**; 66:25; Imagine World Peace!).

- ✓ wolf dwelling with the lamb,
- ✓ the leopard lying down with the young goat
- ✓ the calf and the young lion together,
- ✓ the cow and the bear grazing together,
- ✓ lions eating straw,
- ✓ nursing child playing by the hole of the cobra
- ✓ the weaned child putting his hand on the viper's den (Isa.11:6-8; Isa.66:25).



E. "They shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). What does it mean to be called a "sons of God" in this context?

