

MORE ON THE BEATITUDES

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Matthew 5:1-9

1. Jesus authoritatively declared, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

NOTE: As children of God we possess a new perspective, a new heart, and a new purpose, and these three realities will define our lives.

2. Many interpret the Beatitudes from a worldly perspective and completely miss their meaning and application.

3. We need to understand that Jesus was not talking about world peace or peace between those who inhabit this present world.

NOTE: This world will one day experience peace when Jesus Christ has put an end to all sin and rebellion against God and rules the Messianic Kingdom for 1000 years.

4. There can be no peace apart from the Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

5. In Isaiah 48:4 God declared, "I know that you are obstinate, and your neck is an iron sinew (you are stiff-necked), and your forehead bronze (you are hard-headed)."

6. Because of the above fact Isaiah declared, "'There is no peace for the wicked,' declares the Lord." Isaiah 48:22

7. It is important to note that Jesus made it clear that He did not come to bring peace on the earth at this time. Matt 10:34-39

34 **"Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.** 35 "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; 36 and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. 37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

NOTE: Jesus is God's line in the sand, and we are either with Him or against Him. We will see in next week's study that those who truly embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will find themselves at odds with this present world and its inhabitants.

8. So what is Jesus saying here?

I. Before we can be a peacemaker we must be at peace with God.

A. The issue of sin and rebellion must be settled.

1. Isa 53:6

6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

2. Isa 55:6-9

6 Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. 7 **Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts;** and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts,

nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

- B. Only in Christ can we know peace with God and with others. Eph 2:11-22
11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands — 12 **remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.** 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 **For He Himself is our peace**, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. 17 **AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;** 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.
- C. Only in Christ can we have peace with God and with others who also are in Christ.

II. Those who have made peace with God will possess peace and desire peace.

- A. Jesus promised us His peace and also peace in the midst of conflict.
1. John 14:27
27 "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."
NOTE: This promised peace is the same peace that was manifested in Jesus' life.
 2. John 16:33
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."
- B. The peace Jesus is speaking about comes through prayer and obedience. Phil 4:4-9
4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your **gentle spirit** be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 **And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** 8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. 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.**

C. Jesus stated that in this world we will have tribulation, but we are still to be people who are for peace.

1. Sometimes we will feel like the Psalmist. Ps 120:6-7

6 Too long has my soul had its dwelling with those who hate peace. 7 I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war.

2. Regardless:

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

Romans 12:18

b. "Pursue peace with all men." Hebrews 12:14

III. Those who have found peace with God will want others to possess it as well.

A. Paul made it clear that those who have been reconciled to God are to be agents of reconciliation. 2 Cor 5:17-21

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 **Now all these (new) 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. 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

B. It is important to note that reconciliation can only happen on God's terms, and the gospel we preach must be the true gospel of peace.

C. It occurred to me as I was preparing this message that the only hope of heaven many professing Christians have is that the Bible is not true. I say that because their lives deny the genuineness of their so-called salvation experience and the Bible clearly disqualifies them.

APPLICATION

1. Blessed are those who have made peace with God through Jesus Christ who is our peace.

2. Blessed are those who have made peace with God and have become God's agents of peace.

3. Such can refer to themselves as sons and daughters of God.

4. Be sure that you are numbered with them.