

A DIFFERENT KIND OF LIFE

What Are Peacemakers Like?

TEXT: **Mt. 5:9** Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

INTRODUCTION: Last week, we saw that the peace Jesus was talking about was different than the peace we and our world usually talk about.

Who has the peace Jesus is describing?

- **Only those who have peace from God.**
- **Only those who ultimately have peace with God.**

Last week we saw that the key to understanding how to have this peace that only comes from God is

Col. 1:20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

- **Only those who have had peace made by way of the blood of the cross.**

So, **“Who are the peacemakers?”**

- Not those who carry signs or march against the bomb.
- Not those who sit at a table for hours of meaningless negotiation.
- Not those who endlessly study about it or philosophize upon it.
- Not even those who run to and fro trying to extinguish every little skirmish by way of truce.

Peacemakers are those who, being at peace with God themselves, help others make peace with God by way of Christ’s sacrifice upon the cross.

In the first church I pastored, a skirmish arose.

I ran to and fro, listening, talking, like a boy scout with a wet blanket in a forest fire. I got nowhere, couldn’t make peace, for months!

The Lord laid on my heart to get everybody together.

We didn’t even talk about problems or try to find grounds for a truce.

We just all got our hearts right with Jesus. We made peace with Him and then we had peace with each other.

Do you want peace in your life, in the depth of your being? It comes only by Jesus Who shed His blood upon the cross.

Want to help others find that kind of peace? Bring them to Jesus so they can have peace by the blood of the cross.

Oh Baptists, don't ever forget it.
Oh SABC, don't ever forget it.
Oh fellow believer, don't ever forget it!

I am afraid we are sometimes willingly forgetful, because **it is easy for us to be Peace Keepers instead of Peace Makers.**

We just want to keep our peace with God, our relationship with Him, and not worry about anyone else.

But we are the church! – The body of Christ – We are to do the work of Christ.

What is that? Jesus said, "I have come to seek and to save that which is lost!"

He came to reconcile lost men to God through the blood of His cross.

I am afraid we get too concerned about details or methodologies or terminology.
I hear today more criticism of the way people witness than I hear of people not witnessing.

One person is critical of the Sinner's Prayer.
One does not like the phraseology of Asking Jesus Into Your Heart.

"I don't like this."

"That might offend somebody."

"That's too complicated."

"That's too simple."

"Too formal, too casual, too long, too short, too much memory, use pamphlet too much."

Friend, I don't care what you use or don't use.

Use SBC, "How to Have a Full, Meaningful Life."

Or Campus Crusade, "Four Spiritual Laws."

Or Child Evang., "Wordless book," an Evangecube or "5 color bracelet"

Use WIN, TELL, EE, Share Jesus Without Fear, Marked NT, Roman Road,
or just John 3:16.

But **let's not criticize methodology so much that we quit telling them about Jesus.** And that's what happens to those who criticize the work of evangelism.
Don't take my word, just see for yourself.

The next time someone criticizes someone doing evangelism, or some evangelistic effort, just observe how many people they are bringing to Jesus.

Oh I pray that the end result of our study of the beatitudes would not be that we become just a bloated bunch of Bible believers, but a bold bunch of Bible doers.

I pray that our growth would not be superficial and turn our focus inward, but would make us really like Jesus and put our gaze outward.

I pray that we might not stop being pure in heart, but would be genuine peacemakers, bringing others to peace with God by way of the blood of the cross.

Nothing pleases God more than salvation of souls.

Luke 15:7 I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

Now, I want to share with you what real peacemakers are like.

I. REAL PEACEMAKERS KNOW THE TRAGEDY OF WAR.

- A. Those who don't want any more war are those who have experienced its tragedy.

Those who witnessed the atrocities of Hitler's mass murders.
Those who were blinded or maimed in Vietnam or Iraq.
Those whose loved ones perished in battle.

They want peace for they know the tragedy of war!

- B. Jesus told us that tragedy awaits those who die while still at war with God.

John 3:18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Sometimes a person will ask me, "How do you know there is a hell?" The number one reason: Because Jesus told us about a man who went there.

Read Luke 16:19-31

The rich man learned tragedy of war and immediately wanted to be a peacemaker!

I hear, “Don’t like to hear about hell fire and damnation.” – They wouldn’t want to hear it from Jesus Himself. Do we need firemen who are afraid to knock on a door where smoke bellows out because someone might be offended?

Do we believe that hell is real?

Do we believe that those who die without Christ are going to hell?

Do we believe that the only escape is to make peace with God by way of the blood of the cross?

Then let’s be peacemakers because we know the tragic result of a soul at war with God.

II. REAL PEACEMAKERS SEE PEOPLE WITH COMPASSION.

Jesus saw people.

Jesus saw sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus saw a harvest.

The disciples saw people.

The disciples saw only people.

The disciples saw merely people.

When Jesus saw lost people, He felt compassion. The strongest possible N.T. term for loving concern. Used only of or by Jesus. Godly concern.

He saw sheep that would be destroyed or devoured if they had no shepherd.

He saw a harvest so ripe it would rot if someone did not gather it.

He saw people with compassion for He knows that each had a limited time to repent and trust Him and make peace with God. He had compassion for He knew their destiny.

Peacemakers have compassion for they are more concerned about the person living in hell than about being thought of as “bold, presumptuous, prying,” or about being criticized by those who have no real compassion.

III. REAL PEACEMAKERS HAVE A DIVINE COMPULSION.

A compulsion to tell the good news!

Natural when saved, but too often we are talked out of it by those who have been Christians longer. What a shame!

Jeremiah – fire in bones

Paul – woe if I preach not

Steven – had to share though it cost him his life

IV. REAL PEACEMAKERS KNOW THE BLESSEDNESS OF PEACE.

They celebrate like the angels in heaven when a person comes to faith in Christ.

- A. They celebrate because they know the blessings the new believer is going to have in this life because of their new relationship with Christ.

Love, care, purpose, guidance, help, healing

- B. They celebrate because they know the blessings the new believer is going to have in the life to come.

Rev. 21:4-5 ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

Conclusion:

Are you at peace?

Are you a peacemaker?

God wants you to be. Blessed are the peacemakers.