

How to be a Peacemaker (part 1)

Matthew 5:1-9

February 12, 2023

Introduction: Jesus could have said, "Blessed are the conflict makers." Because a superficial peace that just avoids conflict or papers over differences is no peace at all. Everywhere Jesus goes, he's a disrupter. He brings peace but a peace that confronts the status quo of broken lives and dehumanizing systems. His Peace is a dangerous peace but also a deep transformational heavenly peace. How can we follow him into that peace and become ourselves true peacemakers?

Prayer: Father, give us ears to hear and hearts to understand your truth as we consider Jesus' teaching in the scripture passage we are about to read and discuss together. Guide us as we try to apply what we learn in our lives. Amen.

Read: Matthew 5:1-9

Review: What did God reveal about your circumstances as you brought your situation before him in prayer? What service has God called you to?

Discussion:

1. At the end of chapter 4 of Matthew we learn that many in the crowd gathered to hear Jesus teach had come a great distance to learn from Jesus. Describe your journey that led to your desire to learn from Jesus.
2. Which of the statements about being blessed (sometimes called the Beatitudes) resonates most with you?
3. Where have you experienced the outcomes that Jesus promises from the postures Jesus describes as being blessed?
4. Describe the difference between the peace Jesus offers and peace that you see our culture striving after? (for extra help see: John 16:33, Numbers 6:24-26, Psalm 119:165, Proverbs 3:15-17, Romans 5:1, and John 14:27)
5. Where have you encountered the sort of peace Jesus offers? How have you been able to extend this peace to others?

Application: This week, prayerfully consider situations or relationships in your home, work, school or neighborhood that are in need of peacemaking. Ask God to guide you to those in which you may be an instrument of God's peace.

Prayer: Father, thank you that through Jesus, we have peace with you. Grant us the grace to share this peace with those around us. Amen.