

***How to be a Peacemaker (part 2)***

Luke 19:41-48

February 19, 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 deep transformational heavenly peace. How can we follow him into that peace and become ourselves true peacemakers?

***Prayer:*** Father help us understand how to live as conduits of your peace to others around us as we learn from you through the study of your word. Amen.

***Read:*** Luke 19:41-48

***Review:*** What did God reveal to you as you prayed about situations or relationships in your home, work, school or neighborhood that are in need of peacemaking?

***Discussion:***

1. How do you recognize what will bring you peace? What have you tried that failed to give peace? What has helped you find peace?
2. Why does Jesus act as he does in verses 45-48? What practices does he object to and why? See Jeremiah 7:1-11; Amos 8:4-6; Nehemiah 13:15-18; Isaiah 56:1-8.
3. By what authority does Jesus clear the temple of merchants and merchandise? Where do you have authority to act and where do you not have authority?
4. When you see injustice what is your reaction? What do you think, say or do? How could you be guided by Jesus' words in this passage?

***Application:*** This week try to be a peacemaker in at least one relationship in your life.

***Prayer:*** Father, give us the boldness to act on what we've learned and the humility to realize that true peacemaking is only possible when we ourselves first learn to embrace the peace you have generously offered us. Amen.