

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The Beatitudes

“Practice, practice, practice”

Matthew 5:9

Question:

- † What is one of the most persistent temptations Christians face?

Answer:

- † It may surprise you, but the devil is not so interested in getting Christians to do certain things.
- † Really, the devil has the simple goal of keeping us from enjoying our life in Christ (Mark 4:19).
- † Satan leads us to think that we enjoy life better if we choose not to live the Christian life.

Question:

- † Why has God placed Christ-followers in the world?

Answer:

- † To demonstrate a life of the kind of quality that the world cannot know.

God's purpose for us is to be PEACEMAKERS in a world where people's stomachs are constantly churning with the unnecessary grief of broken relationships and disharmony.

*“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.”*

**Jesus is establishing an ENTIRELY new and different kingdom.
Only a new man can LIVE this kind of life!**

Define the problem:

Establishing the peace of God in a world of war and hate.

- Jesus Christ's kingdom is one of peace, and His disciples are to be keepers of peace by CHOOSING to endure suffering themselves rather than inflict it on others.

Why are there wars? What is the matter with the world?

- James 4:1-8

The peacemaker has become new, different!

- The trouble according to Scripture is in the heart of man, and until the heart of man is CHANGED you will never solve the problem by trying to make manipulations on the surface. Go to the source!
- It is out of the HEART that evil thoughts, murders, adultery, fornication, jealousy, envy, malice, etc. proceed, and while people are like that there will be no peace.
- The great need of the world is peacemakers.

Define peacemakers:

Bring love, not bitterness, into relationships.

What a peacemaker is not:

- **EASYGOING** “peace at any price”, anything to avoid trouble

What a peacemaker is:

- **PASSIVELY**: peaceable, not quarrelsome
- **ACTIVELY**: not content to let sleeping dogs lie, does all he can to produce and maintain peace

What is required to be a peacemaker:

AN ENTIRELY NEW INLOOK

- **MOURN**: *John 8:32*
- Entirely delivered from self, self-interest, self-concern

- **POOR IN SPIRIT**:
- Wretched man that I am, who will deliver me?

- **MEEK**:
- Because of the blackness of your heart

- **HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS**:
- No longer stand on rights and privileges, but hate my sin.

AN ENTIRELY NEW OUTLOOK

- **PURE HEART**:
- New nature, new view of others, not filled with envy or jealousy

AN ENTIRELY NEW VIEW OF THE WORLD

- **HAVE ONLY ONE CONCERN**: The glory of God
- Prepared to suffer wrong and injustice in order that peace may be produced and God’s glory magnified.

Doing Deliberate Discipleship Practice, practice, practice

It’s in practice that you prove whether you’re a peacemaker or not.

1. You learn not to **SPEAK**.
 - One of the first things in making peace is knowing when not to speak.
2. Where is God in this? Think! Don’t just **FEEL**.
 - The moment you think of it in light of the Gospel, you are beginning to make peace.
 - As long as you think of it in a personal sense, there will be war.
3. Means and methods of making peace: become positive & active!
 - We must take the initiative of speaking, approaching the other person.
- 4 Endeavor to **DISPERSE** peace.
 - No matter where we are!

Define the benefit: Shall be called sons of God

Why are peacemakers blessed?

- New nature, justified, and adopted.
- Not selfish, but selfless.
- **FELLOWSHIP**: 1 John 1:7
- **PROTECTION**: Philippians 4:7
- **WISDOM**: James 3:16-18

Peacemaker?
Finish with self, and follow Jesus.