

Sermon on the Mount #9

Blessed are the Peacemakers!

Matthew 5:3-12

- 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.
7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.
12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

I. The Eight Beatitudes: Brief Definitions (Mt. 5:3–12)

Introduction: True spiritual reality is defined by the 8 beatitudes. This is the character of Jesus, true christlikeness! These describe what pleases God and what Jesus has in mind for creation and will duplicate in the nations through His ministry as King. Implied in all of God's commands is the promise of the enabling grace to walk out the command. Thus, all 8 beatitudes are a part of our inheritance and are doable by the grace of God active in us. God will bless the pursuit and progressive attainment of these 8 expressions of grace in the heart.

A. Being poor in spirit (theirs is the kingdom of heaven, Mt. 5:3) – to acknowledge that we are in great need of help to sustain wholeheartedness. This is to understand, that we are in a serious dilemma in needing a breakthrough (insight/power) in our heart for godliness.

B. Mourning for breakthrough (for they shall be comforted, Mt. 5:4) – to be convinced (grieved) at the human condition and our personal inability to live the Christ life, and to be desperate enough to be "extreme" in our pursuit of a progressive breakthrough of insight (revelation) and power (divine enablement) in our heart and ministry.

C. Walking in meekness (shall inherit the earth, Mt. 5:5) – to walk in the fasted lifestyle (voluntary weakness) or to have a servant spirit in the use of our natural strengths (time, money, energy, reputation, authority, etc.). Humility or meekness speaks of using our resources with a servant spirit, as we lay down personal rights in serving without regard for receiving the reward (honor, money) from people.

D. Hungering for righteousness (for they shall be filled, Mt. 5:6) – sustained faithfulness in seeking God with wholeheartedness through changing circumstances and seasons of our life.

E. Relating to others with mercy (for they shall obtain mercy, Mt. 5:7) – having a tender spirit in how we treat others in light of receiving God's mercy in our many failures (Ps. 18:35; 130:3-4).

F. Being pure in heart (they shall see God, Mt. 5:8) – breakthrough of purity in our thoughts (bitterness, immorality) and motives (helping people for their benefit without any personal gain).

G. Becoming an anointed peacemaker (called sons of God, Mt. 5:9) – anointing to bring peace (reconciliation) to that which is out of God's will (restoring relationships, bodies, legislation).

H. Enduring persecution (theirs is the kingdom, Mt. 5:10-12) – bearing the counterattack for plundering Satan's Kingdom because we operate in the power of grace and stand for righteousness.

II. Blessed are the Peacemakers! (For they shall be called sons of God!)

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

A. Peace is a foundational truth that dominates the Bible, the word itself is found over 400 times. Our Father is the "God of Peace," our Lord Jesus the "Prince of Peace," and the Holy Spirit releases peace in the heart of the believer as the "fruit of the Spirit" this fruit is the very life of God in us. (Gal 5:22-23)

B. The Hebrew word for peace is the "Shalom" of God and means; completeness, wholeness, well-being, health and prosperity of the soul. This wholeness of soul is the gift of God and emanates from the heart of the one who has peace with God by virtue of the redeeming work of Christ in God's glorious plan of salvation for man.

C. Isaiah prophesied concerning the "prince of peace" (Isa 9:6), who would introduce a kingdom and a government of "peace" (Isa 9:7) whose peace will be ever-increasing and have no end.

Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

D. To be at peace with God is to have His peace and then to become a peacemaker is to be anointed to bring that peace (reconciliation) of His kingdom to that which is out of God's will (restoring relationships, bodies, order to creation, nations, legislation). Paul declares that we have been given the "ministry of reconciliation" which is bringing people to peace with God. This is being a peacemaker.

2 Corinthians 5:18 *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,*

E. The peace of the Bible never evades issues! Out of the truth of righteousness comes real peace. We are not at all talking about a mere truce or the lack of conflict here as true reconciliation to real peace only happens when the truth is known, the issues are settled, and the parties embrace. This is the essence of repentance, a turning to truth and a turning away from error. First falls the sword (the word of righteousness), therein lies a foundation for lasting peace. Righteousness and truth (justice) are the foundation of His throne! (Psa 97:2)

1. Jesus in the Temple

Luke 12:51-53 *Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. 52 For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. 53 Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."*

2. Stephen in the Synagogue

Acts 7:51-53 *"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."*

3. Paul with Peter

Galatians 2:11 *Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed;*

F. The peacemaker anointing flows out of the person that has proceeded through the beatitudes to purity of heart, thus, gaining God's heart for others and coming to be known and called "sons of God!"

James 3:17 *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*

G. The Hungering and thirsting for righteousness (personal) in the fourth beatitude is realized in the sixth (purity) and released through us in the seventh (peacemaker) filling us with opportunities to speak the truth in love and bring peace identifying us as sons of our Father. This kind of witness in the world leads to the natural consequence of the eighth beatitude (persecution).

H. As real truth hits planet earth, the status quo is assaulted as light confronts darkness. Jesus is the "Prince of Peace" yet His very presence and preaching was said to be creating conflict (Lk 23:5)! Paul was preaching the "Gospel of Peace" and yet conflict followed him and he started riots in many of the cities to which the Spirit of God sent Him.

Luke 23:5 *But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place."*

I. God is the Maker of peace (1Cor 14:33), Jesus is the Manifestation of peace (Eph 2:14), The Holy Spirit is the Agent of peace (Gal 5:22), and we are the messengers of peace as anointed peacemakers (2 Cor 5:18).

1 Corinthians 14:33 *For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.*

Ephesians 2:14-18 *For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.*

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

2 Corinthians 5:18 *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,*