

September 16th, 2018
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Heavenly Happiness
Sermon #8 Title: Know Peace
Sermon #8 Text: (Matthew 5:9)

“Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.”

In New York City, across the street from the building that houses the United Nations, is what is called the Isaiah wall. On that wall is engraved a portion of Isaiah 2:4. The prophet told of a yet future time when the Lord God will put an end to all conflict and turmoil and war on planet earth. He said, *“And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”*

But I am afraid until that time, the Word of God makes it as clear as the noonday sun that battle lines will stay drawn from pole to pole and sea to sea.

- Not only will they stay drawn, they will deepen, and they will divide more and more as the days go on.

- That’s why this statement made by the Lord Jesus is so precious. Why it stands in stark contrast not just to the world background, but to our moral and spiritual background as well.

- Speaking of Heavenly Happiness, the Lord does not say, Happy are the peaceful – He said Happy are the Peace-Makers.

(Now we all know those we could honestly say – “happy are the pot-stirrers” – but the truth is that they pot stirrers aren’t really happy, very often they are deeply more miserable than anyone around them.)

Saying Happy are the Peacemakers in a World infested with Troublemakers, is to actually draw a dividing line right straight through society.

- It is in an irony that being a true Peacemaker in and of itself increases the division in a fallen world, once we understand what a true peacemaker really is.

When Jesus proclaimed this truth, He addressed a Global issue, a Historic Issue, a national issue, a Social Issue, and a Personal Issue all in one sentence.

- The issue of peace is as intimate as the socks you wear, and as wide as the flag you fly.

Let’s take a look at this wonderful thing that Jesus speaks of, the Bible calls peacemaking.

*Note – The first thing to take note of is that fact that the statement Jesus made implies that ***Peace needs to be Made***

- Blessing those who are “peace making” speaks of the curse is “peace is missing.”

I. The Problem of Peacelessness

*Note – If peacemaking means peace is missing, what exactly are we talking about?

- Let me give you the textbook definition of the word for peace. – “iranay” – “to be at one with in rest and quietness”

*Note – Now let me say this about peace. It is a positive word not a negative. Meaning that peace is not the “absence of turmoil” – it is its own presence. –

- Theoretically speaking – you can have no troubles at all, and still not be at peace. – it’s not the absence of anything.

- Conversely you can be bull rushed by calamity and still have “peace that passes all understanding.”

*Note – Now that being said, “Peacelessness is not the Presence of Turmoil, it is the absence of peace.” “Peace is not the absence of turmoil, but is its own presence.”

*Note – Now that being said, notice what the Bible tells us about the problem of peacelessness.

A. Generally in the World

1.) The world is at war with God

a.) James 4:4 – *“the friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

b.) Romans 8:7 – *“the carnal mind is the enmity of God.”*

*Note – The world is not “at one with God in rest and quietness,” like the spirit of Satan the human attitude is to rebel and resist the Word and work of God.

Psalm 2:1-3 – David looked at this and just shook his head saying, *“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”*

c.) When the Apostle Paul described natural born man in Romans 3:17 he said, “the way of peace they have not known.”

*Note – We could write a volume of a systematic theology on there being no peace in this world. It is the fundamental underlying theme of man's problems throughout the entire Bible. – But you have the idea generally.

B. Specifically in the Text

*Note – The Lord’s sermon is for the ages. But it had a context when He preached it, and what it meant then, is what it means now.

- In that context, the Peace was missing in that day, specifically the way it is missing today.

1.) Politically

a.) Rome was the Federal Government ruling an Israel that didn’t want to be ruled by Rome.

*Note – The primary problem between the Romans and the Jews centered around Roman taxes. The Romans did not interfere with the Hebrew faith as long as they didn’t cause problems, but they did lay hefty taxes upon them.

(1) Jews who worked for the Romans were considered traitors. Zacchaeus, and Levi

b.) Factions of Israel often kept up guerilla protests against Rome.

(1.) Simon Zelotes

*Note – The political tension between the Hebrews and the Romans would become so volatile that Rome got tired of it, and put down all the rebellion in about 40 years after this sermon.

- From the time that Jesus preached this sermon, until Titus the Roman general attacked Jerusalem, the political tension just kept escalating, and escalating. -

2.) Socially

- the social divisions were as deep and wide as the political divisions.

People were also divided, financially, ethnically, and religiously in addition to their political loyalties. – The Jews despised the Roman “dogs” the Romans had no regard for Jews, and neither one of them saw Samaritans as their equals.
- there was virtually no “inter-peace” between all dissected areas of the Jewish society.

3.) Spiritually

a.) The clergy of that day offered no redemption or grace – they were empty hypocrites who by the testimony of Jesus knew nothing of mercy, or grace, only law, and self-righteousness.

b.) Those not among the Pharisees and Sadducees were looked down upon and lived in spiritual defeat and emptiness.

*Note – In fact Jesus would rebuke the Pharisees for making men twofold children of hell.

*Note – Now all of that being said, when Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers” from the widest reaches of creation to the innermost portions of the heart, all of existence was filled with peacelessness!

II. The Parameters of Peacefulness

*Note – Now in order to understand this verse in the light of everything else the Bible says about peace, you and I must understand the parameters of, or the permissions where peace can be made.

- There are over 400 scriptures that deal with and speak of peace. And Not all of them are “for it.”

*Note – Someone might say, “Preacher, peace is always appropriate, and it’s never wrong to have peace.” – see the German word for Bologna...

- Biblically speaking there at least 4 conditions when peace is not to be made....

- Let me give you some examples that you may see and notice the principles of when peace is NEVER to be made.

A. With Men United Against God

1.) Genesis 11:6-9 – “And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.”

*Note – Someone culturally asks – “Can’t we all just come together.” – Biblically speaking – No we can’t. Not under any conditions.

- When men want to unite in rebellion and defiance to the Lord, we are not to be at peace, or at one in rest, with such a spirit.

B. Where Christ is Clearly Against Man

- Now Christ is never against man. No that’s not true, ultimately Christ is for the men that He is against, but under certain conditions He is against them.

1.) Matthew 10:34-36 – “*Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the*

daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household."

*Note – The Lord Jesus Himself said that His word and His work would divide people and He said, "Let them be divided."

- Now note the irony in that...

- Here in chapter 5, Jesus said, "the peacemakers will be called the children of God." – In chapter 10 – the virgin born child of God was not a peace maker, but a peace taker."

- there are conditions by which peace can be made, and there are conditions by which peace must not be made, and what Christ is against, no man should be for!

Write down 2 John vs 10-11 – speaking of the Doctrine of Christ, John wrote - "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

C. With Men who are United in Sin

*Note – The scriptures are full of warnings and commands not to unite with people united in sin.

1.) Judges 2:1-2 – the Lord rebuked Israel saying – "And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.

And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?"

2.) Ephesians 5:6-7 – the Apostle warned real Christians about Counterfeit Christians, and

said – "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. **Be not ye therefore partakers with them."**

D. Where God has Forbidden Peace to Be

*Note – There are certain conditions for which the Lord has said, "Peace" will never rest there. So when He says that, "don't try to provide what God has denied."

1.) Isaiah 48:22, and 57:21 – the Lord said "There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked."

- Never try to put people at ease in their sin.

(There is a difference in being gentle, and being complicit.)

Peace is being "at one with in rest and quietness" – That is never to be the relationship between a man and his sin. Sin is an angry rattle snack, not a cuddly bunny rabbit.

2.) Isaiah 59 the prophet was explaining the nature of sin in the sinner, and in verse 9 the Lord said through him – "*The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: **whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.***"

- Those are four basic principles of the parameters in which Peace should never be made. – But, within the principles, pictures and boundaries that the Lord has given, peace should be pursued!

- Romans 12:19 – "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

- Romans 14:20 – “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”

*Note – Within the boundaries of the Bible and the parameters of the Lord, peace is not merely possible, it is promised to those who will receive it from the Lord, and render it to men.

III. The Power for Peaceableness

*Note – How then does one be a “peace maker” rightly understood?

*Note – Realize this – no one can hand out what they don’t have. Note what the Bible tells about “being at one with in rest and quietness”

A. It Begins with Repentance in the Heart

1.) Romans 5:1 – “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- when we put down our sin and rebellion and independence, and trust Him without our control, we are no longer at war with God, we are “at one with in rest and quietness”, through Jesus.

*Note – The Lord NEVER compromises to be “at one with us” He demands repentance for us to be “at one with Him.”

B. It Blossoms with the Righteousness of God

1.) Isaiah 32:17 – “And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.”

*Note – The very basis of “being at one with God in rest and quietness” is His Righteousness in your Humbled Heart!

2.) Now do you remember the initial subject of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount – it is the introduction to the Kingdom of God. – That’s the good news – You can be ruled and reigned by the Father. We can hand in our independence, we can hand in our wills and our ways, and have our selves governed by the Word!

- “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.”

- That was the inaugural statement of Christ’s message.

Write down Romans 14:17 – “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

Where there is “Righteousness” there is Peace. Where there is no Righteousness, there can be No Peace!

C. It is Blessed when it is Passed on to Men

1.) “Blessed are the peacemakers”

- the only time in the Bible this word is used.

2.) It is the idea of those who lead others to the righteousness of God.

- we cannot make peace with the wicked – until the wicked repent.

- we cannot be at peace with the defiant, until the defiant repents.

- we cannot encourage peace in someone’s sin – till they repent.

*Note – Peacemaking is when those who have the peace with God through Christ bring others to have peace with God through Christ.

- That is why the Bible calls the gospel the Gospel of Peace!

*Note – Only through the blood of Jesus, and the gospel of His grace can peace be actually made! – there is No other way!

- All the world is at war with God until those in the world come under the Blood of Jesus, then the war is over. Peace with God is born, and now peace with God can blossom.

IV. The People of Peace

- “they shall be called the children of God.”
- Only by the Son of God can anyone have peace with God.
- therefore by the sons of God preaching the gospel of God others become sons of God and gain peace with God.
- What happens when someone becomes a son of God – they begin becoming just like Jesus . . .
- the more like Jesus you become the more of a peacemaker you become.

Listen to Zacharias proclamation of what the Baby Jesus would do... Luke 1:79 – “To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” – to be THE peacemaker.

Conclusion: - Only Jesus can give the only peace that cannot be touched by the troubles of the world.

John 14:27 – *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*