



**Exploring the Kingdom of God through Matthew:
Blessed are the Peacemakers!**

September 3, 2017

Text: Matthew 5:9

NLT: Mat 5:9 God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

Peace defined in this context (Webster 1828):

1. A state of quiet or tranquility; freedom from disturbance or agitation; applicable to society, to individuals, or to the temper of the mind.
2. Freedom from agitation or disturbance by the passions, as from fear, terror, anger, anxiety or the like; quietness of mind; tranquility; calmness; quiet of conscience.
3. Harmony; concord; a state of reconciliation between parties at variance.
4. To be at peace, to be reconciled; to live in harmony.
5. To make peace, to reconcile, as parties at variance.

A Peacemaker then is someone who works for these things in the Kingdom!

INITIAL OBSERVATIONS OF THIS TEXT:

1. First, as in all the other Beatitudes, Christ declares a blessing upon those who would be peacemakers. Again, the King has set His Kingdom in order; may we all desire the sort of heart He prizes in His subjects. The King **WANTS** to and **WILL** bless this kind of Kingdom citizen!
2. Second, please note that peace must be **“made.”**
 - In other words, He didn’t say blessed are those who talk about peace, wish for peace, debate the merits of peace, read about peace, role-play peace, or lament the lack of peace.
 - None of these things are harmful by themselves. Nevertheless, the blessing is pronounced upon those who “make” peace!
 - MacDonald on the Verse:

*5:9 A blessing is pronounced on **the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.** Notice that the Lord is not speaking about people with a peaceful disposition or those who love peace. He is referring to those who actively intervene to make peace. The natural approach is to watch strife from the sidelines. The divine approach is to take positive action toward creating **peace**, even if it means taking abuse and invective.*

3. Third, peacemakers shall be called the children of God. More on this below, but again from MacDonald:

*Peacemakers are **called sons of God.** This is not how they become sons of God—that can only happen by receiving Jesus Christ as Savior (*Joh 1:12*). By making peace, believers manifest themselves as **sons of God**, and God will one day acknowledge them as people who bear the family likeness.*

THE KING'S HEART FOR PEACE:

- *Psa 122:1-8 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. 2 Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. 3 Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: 4 Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD. 5 For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. 7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. 8 For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.*
- *Rom 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*
- *Rom 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*
- *1Co 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*
- *1Co 7:15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.*
- *1Co 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*
- *2Co 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*
- *Gal 5:19-23 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*
- *1Th 5:12-13 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; 13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.*
- *Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*
- *Jas 3:13-18 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. 14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.*
- *1Pe 3:8-12 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: 9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

SOME UNDERSTANDING OF PEACE:

1. From the Garden of Eden where God, in love, placed Adam and Eve, our King has wanted His children to live together peacefully.

2. Of course, we are not talking about the world's concept of peace wherein divine and holy truth is sacrificed for **cultural** norms or some sinful version of man-made utopia.
3. Rather, we are talking about *Kingdom* peace wherein the citizens of the Kingdom are, first, at peace with the King! This presupposes a desire to follow the King, obey the King, and thus walk with the King in the coolness of the day in love and tender fellowship. (Gen 3:8)
4. THEN and only then can Kingdom citizens be at peace one to another.
5. But just as in the Garden of Eden, peace is often disrupted by the enemy of peace, **sin**.

Jesus understood this: there would always be enmity and a lack of peace between good and evil, righteousness and sin, and the Kingdom of Light versus the kingdom of darkness. This is why He said:

Mat 10:34-39 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 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. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. 37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

6. Friends, there will be NO peace with sin; NO peace with the world; NO peace with the flesh; NO peace with devil; and no ultimate peace either with or for the King's enemies. These things are by their nature, OUTSIDE of the Kingdom.
7. But WITHIN the Kingdom, peace must be MADE...and BLESSED are they who determine to make it!

THE "MAKING" OF PEACE

So, how does one biblically make peace? Paul gives us a wonderful checklist in **Ephesians 4...a chapter where unity and peace is strongly called for in the church**. Please study that chapter; here is a summary:

1. Embrace that the Kingdom life is a **calling** from Christ, including peacemaking. (v1)
2. Allow the Lord to imbue you to lowliness, **meekness**, long-suffering, and forbearance. (v2)
3. Endeavor (be **eager!**) to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of PEACE. (v3)
4. Know that there is only one Body, one Lord, one Faith, and one Baptism. There is one God and Father of all! Christ is the risen and ascended Lord! Such is the foundation for peace-making amongst brethren! (vv4-10)
5. Strive for doctrinal unity; it brings peace! (vv11-14)
6. Speak the truth in **love**; it brings maturity and subsequently, peace! (vv15-16)
7. Pursue peace as Christians, not the world. Peace must be pursued without vanity of mind, darkened understanding, Kingdom ignorance, or blindness/hardness of heart. (vv17-19). Instead, have a renewed spiritual mind in the Lord and a desire for righteousness and **holiness!** (vv20-24)
8. Peace must be pursued without lying, prolonged anger, or footholds of the devil like wrath, malice, and evil speaking. Rather, it must be sought after with edifying, **grace**-filled words, the power of the Spirit. (vv25-31)
9. Finally, peace must be made with kindness and forgiveness. (v32)
10. The motive for all these things is **Christ** and His cross, through which God has made peace with us! (v32)

CHILDREN OF GOD!

1. What a title: Children of God! (*Sons of God* in ESV)

2. This honorific, *sons or children of God*, was used of angels in the OT.
3. Indeed, in answer to His critics concerning the reality of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus said concerning His true “children:”

Luk 20:34-36 The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: 35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

4. To be called “children” or “sons” of God because of peacemaking is to be blessed. It suggests hearts so transformed by the Gospel they’ve become more like Christ: a facilitator of reconciliation.
5. It suggests a closeness with the heart of the Master, a familiarity with heaven and the ways of the Kingdom, and a desire to gladden the heart of God. May we all seek such!!

Amen!

APPLICATIONS/FAMILY WORSHIP THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

1. Are you a peacemaker or a peace-breaker?
2. Can you think of anyone with whom you need to “make peace?” Can you think of any situation where your influence might help bring or keep the peace?
3. Most of us seem to find peaceful things boring, and drama, conflict, and confusion worth our time and attention. Why is this?
4. Would you consider praying that God would change your heart to desire peacefulness and calmness to a greater degree?
5. How do you think you can help your children (or those you mentor) become peacemakers?