

# BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

**Text: Matthew 5:9**

**Key Word: Peacemakers**

**Key Thought: God Blesses Those Who Promote Peace**

The seventh Beatitude is the most difficult to expound. Jesus did not say blessed are the peace-lovers or the peace-keepers but rather the peacemakers. With all the recent talks about peace in the Middle East and Europe we can quickly notice that our world leaders continually face extreme challenges to bring about even temporary withdrawals from acts of aggression and an all out war.

**It seems the more we strive for peace, the more it seems to evade us.** We must be doing something wrong. This beatitude offers us the Biblical guidelines for obtaining long lasting peace. There are several points which need to be addressed to better understand what Jesus was referring to.

## **I. THE CONTRAST OF PEACE**

## **II. THE COMPLETENESS OF PEACE**

## **III. THE CONDUCT OF PEACE**

### **I. THE CONTRAST OF PEACE**

The approaches of bringing about peace have changed considerably throughout the Bible. **There is a marked contrast between the tasks that God assigned to His people under the Old Covenant as compared to the New Covenant.**

When the children of Israel were given the Law at the base of Mount Sinai, their direction in life changed considerably. **They were commanded to take up the sword and enter the land of Canaan with one purpose - to conquer the land by completely destroying its inhabitants (men, women, and children).** The tribes dwelling in the land of Canaan were seen as enemies of Jehovah.

*"See the LORD your God has given you the land.  
Go up and take possession of it as the LORD, the  
God of your fathers, told you. Do not be afraid; do  
not be discouraged."*

*Deuteronomy 1:21*

## I. THE CONTRAST OF PEACE (Contd.)

*"On the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho the LORD said to Moses,*

*51. 'Speak to the Israelites and say to them:'When you cross the Jordan into Canaan,*

*52. **drive out all the inhabitants of the land before you.** Destroy all their carved images and their cast idols, and demolish all their high places.*

*53. **Take possession of the land and settle in it, for I have given you the land to possess.** . . .*

*55. But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land, those you allow to remain will become barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will give you trouble in the land where you live.*

*56. And then I will do to you what I plan to do to them."*

*Numbers 33:50-53,55,56*

***"Do not let them live in your land, or they will cause you to sin against me,** because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you."*

*Exodus 23:33*

*"This is how you will know that the living God is among you **and he will certainly drive out before you** the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites."*

*Joshua 3:10*

From Jericho onward they were to destroy every inhabitant of the land (Joshua 6:21) in order to bring about the peace to live in the land.

"There's just one sure way to find peace - look in the dictionary."

"The amazing thing about a man being arrested for disturbing the peace these days is that he found any."

"When a man finds no peace within himself, it is useless to seek it elsewhere."

*E.C. McKenzie  
"14,000 Quips and Quotes," p. 385*

## I. THE CONTRAST OF PEACE (Contd.)

It is amazing how some people are still living in the O.T. mind set. **Peace no longer means the elimination of everything or anything that troubles us.**

In the N.T. peace was achieved in a much different manner. The contrast was and still is quite noticeable. **With the introduction of the Gospel message God's Church was called to seek reconciliation with all who are enemies with our Lord and His Church.** The angels from heaven were the first to introduce the change.

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."*

Luke 2:14

The apostles became ambassadors of this peace.

*"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."*

Romans 12:18

*"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."*

Mark 9:50

## II. THE COMPLETENESS OF PEACE

I find it very interesting that this is the 7th beatitude. Seven in the Bible is the number of completeness. There is strong evidence that our Lord's intent was to teach that this attribute will lead to a completeness or wholeness of our Christian character. **A person cannot obtain full maturity in Christ without the peace of God ruling their hearts and minds.**

The word "*peace*" has a full meaning when it comes to the Scriptures. In the O.T. the Hebrew word is "*Shalom.*" It is a two-sided coin of truth. **It not only meant the absence of evil things but also the presence of all good things.** Therefore, it is not just the freedom of all trouble but also the enjoyment of all good. The Greek word "*eiene*" means essentially the same thing.

This word occurs in the N.T. in every book except I John and possibly the book of Acts. It describes the relationship we have with each other; between nations; freedom from molestation; within and among the churches; harmony with God; and with ourselves.

## II. THE COMPLETENESS OF PEACE (Contd.)

The word indicates a wholeness; being full or complete. It is used to describe an offering (peace-offering) made to God. We can never be peacemakers in and of ourselves. Peace is a gift of God which must be received by and through Him.

*"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Jesus),  
20. and through him (Jesus) to reconcile to himself (Father God) all things, whether on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."*

*Colossians 1:19,20*

True peace needs nothing more than our willingness to fully accept Him who is the Prince of Peace. It is ironic that the violent act of crucifixion brought about true access to lasting peace.

\*\*\* A hurricane is a storm with cyclonic winds that exceed 74 mph. Rain thunder and lightning usually accompany the winds. Hurricanes can be very fierce storms with relentless pounding winds that continue hour after hour. But a very fascinating thing about a hurricane is its "eye" - a place of perfect calm in its centre.

Though the winds blow and rage all around, there are none in the eye of the storm.

So with us in the storms of life. With the Lord as our centre, there is calm and peace, even in the darkest of life's storms.

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Michael Green

*"Illustrations for Biblical Preaching"*

#958 p. 260

## III. THE CONDUCT OF PEACE

"The seventh beatitude has more to do with conduct than with character, though, of necessity, there must first be a peaceable spirit before there will be active efforts put forth to make peace."

Arthur W. Pink

*"The Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer"*

p. 50

### III. THE CONDUCT OF PEACE (Contd.)

A brief review of the beatitudes are perhaps in order to get an overall picture of what the Lord was teaching. In the first four statements we turn to the "**negative**" lessons.

1. Christ's subjects are not self-sufficient' but should consciously be poor in our spirit.
2. We are not self-satisfied but rather we are to mourn over our spiritual state.
3. We are not self-important; instead we are to be meek and lowly.
4. We are not self-righteous, but should be ever hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

In the last three beatitudes we have the "**positive**" graces of the believer.

1. Having tasted of the mercy of God, we should be merciful with our dealings with others.
2. Having received from the Spirit a purity, we should be focussed on the glory of God.
3. Having been brought to peace through the blood of Jesus on the cross, we need to strive forth to bring this peace to others.

A receiver of peace should always endeavor to be a giver of peace.

"Die when I may, I would like it to be said of me, that I always pulled up a weed and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow."

Abraham Lincoln

We've all met people who are like the storms of life. They blow in, blow up, and blow out. They always seem to be involved in quarrels and controversies. Their lives are full of bitterness and strife. They are doing the work of the devil not the work of God.

On the other, hand there are people who are continually "**fighting fires**" when it comes to controversies. Their composure attempts to quench the fuel of bitterness, and bridges the gulfs, while creating new paths. They are like the sugar poured into a bitter cup.

A person who does the work of God is recognized not just as a child of God but rather a "son of God."

*"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."*

*II Corinthians 5:20*

### III. THE CONDUCT OF PEACE (Contd.)

*"and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."*

*Ephesians 6:15*

*"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, **who proclaim peace**, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation ..."*

*Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15*

"Depart in peace, ye messengers of peace."

[Jewish Prayer for the Eve of Sabbath](#)

#### **Disappointing the Prosecution**

\*\*\* A man bought a farm, and soon after he met his nearest neighbour. *"Have you bought this place?"* asked the neighbour.  
*"Yes."*  
*"Well, you've bought a lawsuit."*  
*"How is that?"*  
*"Well, sir, I claim your fence line is ten feet on my side, and I am going to take the matter to court and prove it."*  
The newcomer said, *"Oh! don't do that. If the fence is on your side of the line we will just take it up and move it back."*  
*"Do you mean it?"*  
*"Of course I do,"* was the answer.  
*"Well,"* said the man, *"that fence stays just where it is."* \*\*\*

*"Knights Master Book of New Illustrations"*  
p. 469

Lets strive to be peacemakers in all we say and all we do in 2016 which I believe is to be a year of reconciliation based upon the truth of God's Word.

C:\My Documents\WPWin(X7)\Sermons.2015\Beatitudes/Matthew 5\_9.wpd

Date: Jan 3/16

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: FATHER MAKE US ONE - G

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Exodus 23:33; Joshua 3:10; Luke 2:14; Romans 12:18; Mark 9:50*

**II. THE COMPLETENESS OF PEACE** - *Colossians 1:19,20*

**III. THE CONDUCT OF PEACE** - *II Corinthians 5:20; Ephesians 6:15; Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15*