

“THE KEYS TO A BLESSED LIFE”

Big Idea . . . Part 8 : Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS

Matt. 5:9

INTRO: Blessing comes to those who pursue peace. This world cries out for peace (globally, nations, marital, or personal). Gallup surveyed 5 top questions to ask God . . . In past 4000 yrs. less than 300 yrs. of peace. We live in a world that pursues peace, but has a passion for destruction. If one went to another planet to report on earth's primary business, to be fair he'd have to say war is earth's major industry. After W.W.II the U.N. was created to promote world peace. Yet, since its inception there has not been a day of global peace on earth!

ORDER . . .

Peace is key Biblical term. It is a theme that dominates the Bible (over 400 ref.). God's Word begins with peace in the Garden, and closes with peace in eternity.

I. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF PEACE? Definition

- A. Peace is much more than absence of trouble, conflict or war. “Peace is that moment people stop to reload!”
- B. God sees peace as the presence of (integrity/r'ness. Only true r'ness brings peace. A common Heb. greeting was the word for peace, “Shalom”. This didn't mean may you have no conflicts. Shalom said, “I want you to have all the r'ness & good God can give.”
- C. This is why peacemaking follows purity (r'ness). Holiness & peace are inseparable. True peace is always joined with r'ness and purity (Heb. 12:14; Psa. 85:10; Jam. 3:17).
- D. True peace isn't truce or appeasement. It is never peace at any price. True peace never abandons principle. It only comes when truth reigns. Christ was greatest peacemaker ever, but never avoided conflict, nor compromised truth.

ILLUS: Mac. Writes...

II. WHAT IS THE MENACE OF PEACE? Enemy

The enemy of peace is sin. Because man is sinful he is incapable of peace. “There is no peace for the wicked” (Isa. 48:22). Since the nature of peace is truth & r'ness, the menace to peace is sin. We are internally defiled and cannot produce peace on our own - it is result of purity. Only as we deal with sin can true peace ever exist. Sin causes us all to be at war with God, self, & others (Jam. 4:1-4). Only as we deal with sin will true peace ever exist.

III. WHO IS THE MAKER OF PEACE? Giver

- A. GOD is the author of peace. Man can cry and search for peace: go to counselors, gather at summits, write treaties, etc. - but not find apart from God and His r'ness. Six times God is called the “God of Peace” (Rom. 15:33; Ph. 4:9).
- B. CHRIST is the “Prince of Peace”. He is our peace (Eph. 2:11-18). He made peace at the cross (Col. 1:20). Peace was key theme in life & ministry of Jesus. He came to establish it, His death purchased it, His resurrected presence enables it, and He willed it as a legacy (Jn. 14:27; 16:33; 20:19-21).
- C. The SPIRIT produces the fruit of peace in our lives (Gal. 5:22).
- D. So, peacemakers draw their peace from God. One who doesn't know God & have His Spirit cannot be a peacemaker.

IV. WHO ARE THE MESSENGERS OF PEACE?

Every believer is the minister of peace (2 Cor. 5:18-20). Christians are God's peace corp. When we let His peace rule our lives we can be peacemakers (Col. 3:15; Ph. 4:7). Peacemakers:

- A. Have made their own peace with God and seek to maintain it.
- B. Help others make peace with God, too. The greatest privilege of a peacemaker is to help one at war with God make peace.
- C. Help people make peace with each other. Peacemakers build bridges between people (Matt. 5:21-24, 44-45).

V. WHAT IS THE MERIT OF PEACE? RESULT

The blessing promised to peacemakers is they “will be called the sons of God.”. This is more than a term of affection. It is a badge of identification. The word here deals with likeness in character. The greatest compliment for a father is for his child to desire to be like Him in character. We are never more like God than when we are peacemakers. Nothing compares to being called this. If you look at your life and you're not a peacemaker, either not saved, or living in sin!

CONC: Jesus said in 7th B...NOT the “Power-Brokers”. Which do you want? Be king on the mountain for time or son of God forever? Answer this: A 1000 yrs. from today, will it matter your title or things? NO! But it will make a literal hell of difference whose child you are!

ILLUS: 4 yrs. old boy and divorcing parents...

ILLUS: Soldier “Through”

Barclay, “Blessed are those who produce right relationships in every sphere of life, for they are doing God-like work.”

Numbers 6:24-26 “. . . give you peace”