

UPSIDE DOWN: The Beatitudes

Lesson Eight • Matthew 5:9

The Good News of Peace

A World Without Peace

We long for PEACE in a world afflicted by WAR.

The Seventh Beatitude

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

The Good News of Peace

1. A Radical Calling: Blessed Are the PEACEMAKERS!

Misconceptions of Peace

Biblical peace is NOT the absence of conflict, the avoidance of strife, the appeasement of parties, or the accommodation of issues.

“There is no peace,” says the LORD, “for the wicked.” Isaiah 48:22 NKJV

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. James 4:1-2 NIV

Meaning of Peace

Biblical peace is the result of being RECONCILED to God and others through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace. Ephesians 2:13-14 NIV

For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation. Colossians 1:19-22 NIV

Ministers of Peace

Peacemakers labor as AMBASSADORS for Christ, imploring people to be reconciled to God and others with the message of reconciliation.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2Corinthians 5:18-21 NIV

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Romans 12:18 ESV

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.” Matthew 5:23-24 NIV

Three Action Steps

- MAKE peace with God yourself.

- IMPLORE others to make peace with God.

- LIVE in peace with others.

2. A Radical Blessing: For They Shall Be Called SONS OF GOD!

Like Father, Like Son

When you do the work of peacemaking, you EMULATE the God of Peace, and you are regarded as a “son of God” by your Father in heaven.

God's Peace Corps

Are you a peacemaker or troublemaker?

The Peacemaker's Pledge

See Bulletin Insert