

Matthew 5:1-11 ESV

## The Sermon on the Mount

**5** Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

## **The Beatitudes**

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

## <sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the <u>peacemakers</u>, for they shall be called <u>sons of God</u>.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

[READ THE TEXT]

Pastor – "People of God, this is the Word of God." People – "Thanks be to God."

[PRAY]



## [REVIEW of how the Beatitudes work]

Up to this point this has been a tremendous undertaking to look at this first part of the Sermon on the Mount, and not see it as a bunch of rules for how to become a Christian, but to receive it as a description of what it is to be a Christian. The first 4 Beatitudes describe the internal changes produced by God, these are the things that happen in someone's life when they go through **Regeneration**, the awakening done by the HS in someone's life about their need for God. These second set of Beatitudes is a picture of the life that goes through **Conversion** (faith/repentance) and fruit begins to be produced in the person's life that has been changed.

This week we come to the 7<sup>th</sup> Beatitude: **Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God**. In this proclamation by Jesus there lies a controversial statement, it is on one hand an invitation for the Jews of Jesus' day to embrace what was their destiny, to be known as Sons of God, the blessed chosen. On the other hand, it is a slap in the face, a wakeup call, because the Jews had a lot to be angry about. They were at odds with Rome, as well with the fake Herodian Kings, and even their own crooked government the Sanhedrin. The common Jew definitely wanted to be Sons of God, but a peacemaker would definitely be a tall order.

# [INTRO]

While the role of a peacemaker sounds like a pacifist's man's game it really isn't. A peacemaker is an honorable position, but **peacemaking is not always done peacefully**. A peacemaker is a final arbiter that brings a resolution, contrary to what the parties involved want, and brings an end to strife.

Our current stories and movies are obsessed with this person that attempts to bring peace to their world.

• Tolkien created the character Gandalf that works for *Eru llúvatar*, the powers of good, that confronted King Théoden of *Rohan*, chasing off the deceiver *Wormtongue*, forcing the exorcism of the King from



Saruman, and then led the King into making war. – Eventually leads to peace for mankind.

- Francis Ford Coppola created the character Tom Hagen the lawyer of the *Corleone* family in *The Godfather*. Tom was the voice piece that let others know in a controlled manner, that they were being made an, *"offer they can't refuse"*. Eventually leading to peace between the mob families.
- Randall Wallace, writer of the screenplay for *Braveheart*, wrote about William Wallace, who stirred up the Scotts to take on the English, as he was noted to say, *"I'm going to pick a fight!"* His cries for freedom echoed hauntingly in the head of *Robert the Bruce* to the point that Scottland got their FREEDOM! Eventually leading to peace and a future unified empire.

We have been reading about a peacemaker in our reading plan this past week, called Moses. He goes to Pharaoh, he makes the requests to release the people, and we know each time with the answer of 'no' Moses brings another plague. Pharaoh cries out in distress and Moses goes and pleads for Egypt every time for the plague to stop. God then withdraws His hand, and then Pharaoh's heart hardens again. Moses is in this terrible moment in history bringing about peace for his people while inflicting irreparable harm against the Egyptians. Being a peacemaker is not a job of pleasantries, niceties, and avoidance of conflict, rather it is doing the hard job on confrontation, giving the Word of God, with no alternatives. **Here's what I pray you see today:** 

## MP:

#### Peacemaking is not about <u>avoiding confrontation</u> it is all about <u>running into it</u>.

I wonder if you have caught how we have been teaching these beatitudes every week. Every time we will give the biblical definition of what Jesus is proclaiming, that characteristic of the Christian, then we spend time on how Jesus lived it and perfected it winning our Salvation, and then lastly, we always talk a little about how to model that and live it out. Just to let you know I have been trying to wrap that package every week a little different, helps with you not losing your interest. So, here's the presentation this week:



**1**<sup>st</sup> we have the **Style** of Peace we find in the Bible, **next** we will have the **Source** of True Peace, and then **lastly,** we will look at the **Servant** who is a peacemaker.

## 1. The STYLE of Peace we find in the Bible.

**εἰρηνοποιός eirēnopoiós,**<sup>1</sup>Only time this specific word is found in the NT is here. But the root of the word is found multiple times in scripture, **εἰρήνη eirḗnē,** by implication, prosperity: —one, peace, quietness, rest, +set at one again. – National Tranquility. A Peace that exists even though there can be turmoil all around you. It is a peace that comes not from without but a peace that comes from within, from knowing God. It is what the Jews call Shalom, the peace of God.

That word for 'peac is used 92 times in the NT and the majority of those occurrences deal with salutations or blessings on the church, we will actually cover some of that shortly. The point of the matter is that early Christians were using the word 'peace/ $\epsilon i \rho \eta \nu \eta$ ' the same way that the early Jews were using Shalom. It was not used to convey their current state of domestic affairs rather it was used to convey their state of life under God's reign. The peace of God for the early church was experienced even though an earthly peace was not yet achieved.

If you remember our study in the book of Acts that after Paul's travels through Corinth both the Jews and Christians were treated the same; the proconsul making that judgement in Corinth. Therefore, when Christians thought of peace just like the Jews, it was never meant to be thought of as a worldly peace, for that was something that both groups would just not get from the powers that be. Therefore, what we have in Jesus' proclamation today, is not the blessing of those that bring an earthly, temporary peace that is evidenced by less strife between individuals BUT blessed are the peacemakers, **those** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> εἰρηνοποιός eirēnopoiós, i-ray-nop-oy-os'; from <u>G1515</u> and <u>G4160</u>; pacificatory, i.e. (subjectively) peaceable:—peacemaker. **Only time this specific word is found in the NT is here.** But the root of the word is found multiple times in scripture, εἰρήνη eirḗnē, i-ray'-nay; probably from a primary verb εἴρω eírō (to join); peace (literally or figuratively); by implication, prosperity:—one, peace, quietness, rest, +set at one again. – National Tranquility.



that can give Godly peace that comforts people in the Midst of strife. This is the peace that surpasses all understanding (<u>Phil 4:7</u>).

A short time later, after the SoM, before Jesus sends out the 12 on their first missionary excursion and He breaks the news to them in case they haven't figured it out yet. Yes, He is the bringer of Peace, yes He's called the *Prince of Peace* (<u>Is 9:6</u>), but that was in no way describing a worldly peace between people, as a matter-of-fact Jesus makes that distinction very clear for them.

#### Matthew 10:34-38 ESV

<sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I have come to bring **peace** to the earth. I have not come to bring **peace**, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup> And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. <sup>37</sup> Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

So obviously, on the other side of the incarnation, we now know what He meant. There was no physical Sword that Jesus came in a swinging, it was the sword of His truth, His Word, His teachings, what Jesus would have to say would set everyone on end. What Jesus taught caused people to take to odds with each other, his Gospel would call some to Salvation while others it would show them their damnation. It would cause households to be split, all because a Christian's worldview was supernaturally engraved into their hearts and Christians could no longer hold to earthly worldviews. It caused a Christian to endure suffering from the world for what they believed, that's the taking up their cross (v.38), but in that act, Jesus says those that endure actually gain their life, eternal life for Jesus. Jesus was THE peacemaker but in no way was it bringing earthly peace between men, the Gospel causes rifts.

## Hebrews 4:12 ESV



For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

This is why today family, we have the world demanding that we abandon our doctrine, our truth, and our convictions, if we will but do so, we will get peace! Change what you think about homosexuality, change what you think about pedophilia, change what you think about communism, change what you think about home and church leadership, just change all of that, and you can have peace. And if you are slow to change the world adds insults like calling you homophobic, racist, and misogynistic. I pray you see in their attempts at making peace they are forcing your hand through emotional manipulation.

There has even been this push by underhanded religious leftists to get Christians not to vote if they can't stomach culture. Just stop fighting Christian that is the way you get peace! Every time the church has surrendered its' ground and beliefs in history it is the church that suffers, and it is the Gospel that gets silenced. There has never been a time where the church has softened their stance on a biblical truth where she has benefitted from it. There is no earthly peace for God's people, and the simple reason is because what Jesus started was not a peaceful excursion, the devil won't go peacefully, thank God His Word is as sharp and dangerous as it is!

So, I just want you to keep this in mind now as we progress, **Peacemaking is not about** <u>avoiding confrontation</u> it is all about <u>running into it</u>. Today maybe you have felt the pressure to give in, be quiet and don't say anything, but Jesus says whoever loses his life for my sake saves it, are you about an earthly peace or are you about bringing in a true heavenly peace?

## 2. The SOURCE of True Peace.

If you are going to be a Peacemaker, the type of person that will not walk away from conflict or fearful things then best you know what you rely on, who is the source of this peace.



Let me briefly and in no way exhaustively fill you in on where this peace comes from: **The God of Peace** – Rom 15:13 God of hope fill you with joy and peace. Rom 15:33 May the God of Peace be with you all. 1 Cor 14:33 God is not a God of confusion but of peace. Gal 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus. Eph 1:2 Grace to you and peace from our Father and Lord. Phil 1:2 Grace to you and peace from our Father and Lord. Col 1:2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father. And the list goes on and on and on, like I said 92 times.

The source of this peace we are to bring is from the Father, it is what He desires, and secondly His desire is for His people, His children to share this peace with others.

## 2 Corinthians 13:11 ESV

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, **live in peace**; and the **God of love and peace** will be with you.

Our Father's desire IS restoration, IS to comfort one another, IS to agree with one another, that is the only way to live in peace. And along the way of this endeavor, we are promised that the source goes with us! We are not asked to go and do something that the Lord is not willing to back us up, those that will come to peaceful terms will do so. But just because we endeavor to do the hard thing, go through a conflict, does not guarantee you will have a calm and peaceful worldly life. And that's O.K. too, because at least you will have peace with your Father, and above all that is MOST important. Let me tell you about one of our heroes of Faith that understood that important principle.

## Ephesians 2:14-16 ESV<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Christ has abolished the law as a divisive instrument separating humanity from God and Jews from Gentiles. He has created a single new humanity that transcends the former deep divisions and made peace between them. He has reconciled both Jew and Gentile in this one body to God, killing the hostility. This does not mean, however, that the whole human race has been united and reconciled. There is a further stage in Christ's work which the apostle now mentions. Peter Thomas O'Brien, <u>The Letter to the Ephesians</u>, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1999), 205.



For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

What this beautiful passage in Ephesians is talking about is that Jesus came and took on the hard, painful, and yet necessary task of reconciling Jewish believers of God to Gentile believers of God. He had to come and make peace between the two, and He does this by abolishing the law, meaning He completed the prior obligations of it, thus bringing in the New Covenant, making the 2 separate types of people into 1 a Christian. He brings peace by enduring ridicule; He brings peace by enduring torture, and He brings peace through His death. So that we might have PEACE with God! Without the peacemaking of Jesus, without His selfless act of brining an offer we could not stand to afford to lose, He saves us from the wrath of God, and that my friend is the only way to be at peace with God. Someone must be the peacemaker, and that IS Jesus.

He is the source of our peace now, He is the one that extends to us the peace of God, and it is His delivered peace that enables us to endure our time here on earth.

Family and now we see that what we have to offer the world, the Gospel, we don't have to prove it's true, Jesus did that as His type of peacemaking, we just have to give the message. Are you strong enough to give that yet? Can you tell people the incredibly good news of how you received this peace? If we truly believe that **peacemaking is not about** <u>avoiding confrontation</u> it is all about <u>running into it</u>, then let's look here finally at what that person will do.

## 3. The SERVANT who is a Peacemaker.

Pastor Martin Lloyd Jones pointed out to me in the second part of the verse that peacemakers are '**called**' Sons of God. That word '*called*' is the same connotation as being named, to show ownership, it is someone that is owned



by God. Only a person that is owned by God fully is a person that can be a peacemaker.

The Apostle Paul likes to explain it this way:

## Romans 1:1-6 ESV

1 Paul, a <u>servant</u> of Christ Jesus, <u>called</u> to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup> <u>including YOU</u> who are <u>called</u> to belong to Jesus Christ,

Paul, I believe is explaining in concise terms his choice about serving Jesus, what his election meant to be brought into Jesus' service. Paul's word for servant there is **doûlos**/slave. The salve of Jesus is the same as a person called by Him. So what we have down in verse 6 is as he writes to the church, Christians in Rome, is they are called as well, and I kind of think Paul is laying out for people who own slaves, that they would see for themselves as they put two and two together, that they are bought and paid for property of Jesus, they are slaves.

Peacemakers are conquered individuals; they see in themselves no more with rights to act on their own behalf. They are called to a ministry that is outside themselves, that doesn't always put themselves first, they are property of the Lord God on high, and therefore as His new ambassadors are instruments of peace, negotiators - Jedis. ③

## **James 3:18 ESV**

And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

How we help SERVE-UP Peace.

First things first, we make peace with God ourselves.



It is hard to be a negotiator of peace if you are still holding back your acknowledgment of sin with God. Where the good Lord calls you to repentance, you should count that as Grace, for if you are His child, please know he will not relent to make you confess, for He is a God that wants peace. If there is strife in your heart towards another then you have no peace, you have no rest, and perhaps you need to make amends with someone today. At least you may be the one that needs to make the effort.

## Secondly, we look to make peace with the unsaved.

There is someone in everyone's life in here that I know is far from God. They have been placed in your life because they need to hear the Gospel. You and I are called as slaves of Jesus to take them the terms for their surrender, He will love you, He will pay for your sins, and He calls for your loyalty. Who in your life could benefit with that offer?

## Thirdly, we help to make peace within the church.

The church must constantly be on the lookout for those that need willing negotiators. We need people that are not afraid to say things to one another in the body but more importantly to walk through confrontations with each other. Better to have attempted a clumsy negotiating than to have never tried which could condemn someone to exile.

## Tools for success:

- Learn not to speak but learn to listen.
  - Listen to the presence of a fallen identity trying to believe the bad about others and the bad about oneself. Listen to the defense that shows fear when people tell their sides of a story.
- Give people God's Word more than your own.
- Look for ways to show Mercy instead of looking for reasons not to give it.

Last one, if you are really interested in this role of peacemaker clear your calendar for Nov 15-16 for our communication class entitled "Arguing to Win".

MP:



Peacemaking is not about <u>avoiding confrontation</u> it is all about <u>running into it</u>.

I pray church that today God's Word has enticed you to take this step in faith, believe that God wants peace with you, and believe He has called you to give peace in His name, for you are His children.

# [PRAYER]

# [CALL TO OBEY]

## 2 Corinthians 5:20 ESV

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

Church, if we are to be peacemakers, then we must be ambassadors for Christ and the reconciliation only He can provide.

# [COMMUNION]

## Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

<sup>26</sup> Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus. It was He that came to the earth on a mission of peace, breaking down the dividing wall of hostility, completing the covenant of works, and through that effort ratified a peace treaty between men and with His Father. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love.



Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood. Jesus brought us peace by paying for rebellion, Jesus bought us peace by paying for that sin with His sacrifice, Jesus produced lasting peace through His New Covenant that was eternal and never ending. Praise be to Him for His wonderful Love.

# [CONFESSION OF FAITH]

\* The Congregation will stand

## Elder - "Christians, what do you believe?"

## Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

[OFFERING+LAST SONG] -

# [BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that gave His only Son as the means of making peace between God and man.

Go in the name of the Son, that fearlessly lived His life as an ambassador for peace, breaking down the walls of hostility between God and man.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that opens our eyes to the opportunities for living in peace, now go and make the offer of peace to a world desperately in need of Grace.



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You cannot protect people from things they don't want to confront. – Jordan Peterson. <u>https://x.com/jordanbpeterson/status/1844805560342089740</u>





## @TheAthletic

Ad 'Anywhere but Canada'



#### From nytimes.com



Ben Zeisloft

@BenZeisloft



<u>21m</u>

Every nation must bow the knee to Christ.



<u>Megan Basham</u>

<u>@megbasham</u>

## <u>Oct 10</u>

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36% of the PCA voted for Joe Biden in 2020. That is....well, it's something. Quote



## Ryan Burge

@ryanburge

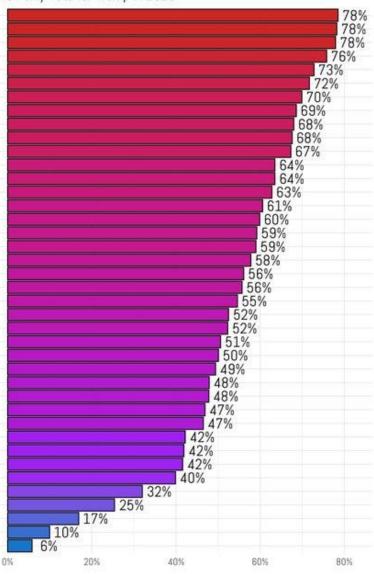
Oct 10

Here's how the forty largest Protestant denominations voted in 2020. Assemblies of God were the most Trump supportive. The least Republican were the African Methodist Episcopal church.



#### Two Party Vote for Trump in 2020

Assemblies of God Nondenominational Fundamentalist Nondenominational Evangelical Independent Baptist Evangelical Presbyterian Church Southern Baptist Convention Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod Other Pentecostal Church Free Methodist Church Church of Christ Nondenominational Charismatic Presbyterian Church in America Community Church Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Synod United Methodist Church Other Lutheran Church Christian Churches and Churches of Christ Pentecostal Holiness Church Pentecostal Church of God Free Will Baptist Other Presbyterian Church Other Nondenominational Presbyterian Church USA Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Other Methodist Church Other Baptist Other Holiness Interdenominational Anglican Church (Church of England) General Assoc. of Regular Baptists American Baptist Churches in USA Baptist General Conference Seventh Day Adventist United Church of Christ **Disciples of Christ** Episcopal Church in the USA Baptist Missionary Association Church of God in Christ National Baptist Convention African Methodist Episcopal



@ryanburge Data: Cooperative Election Study, 2020



## Megan Basham



#### <u>@megbasham</u>

## <u>Oct 10</u>

Essentially, I would've expected a significant number of abstainers and thirdparty voters in the PCA, but would not have guessed that many would actually pull the lever for Biden.



## <u>Megan Basham</u>

<u>@megbasham</u>

<u>12m</u>

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As a few people have pointed out, should have noted the potential third-party and abstaining vote in the overall percentage, and a few also reached out to say that they think perhaps respondents were confusing PCA andPCUSA. But regardless, between the two parties, it's Show more

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Summer Jaeger

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<u>14m</u> My toddler calls moths "butterfly ghosts" and he's right. **David Gornoski reposted** 



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David Gornoski

<u>@DavidGornoski</u>

<u>17h</u> Replying to <u>@BarackObama</u>

Trump took a bullet fighting to end wars. You took a Nobel peace price for launching endless wars.



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## **Michael Foster**

## <u>@thisisfoster</u>

#### <u>17m</u>

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The central source of corruption in BigEva is its devotion to celebrity and love of money. To destroy it, you must kill those twin sins. But they die hard. This is why BigEva is fracturing into MicroEvas—essentially the same thing, just on a smaller scale.



## **<u>G3 Ministries</u>**

#### @G3Conference

## <u>22m</u>

"Being 'gentle' is an expression of godly wisdom alongside being 'peaceable . .

 open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere' (Jas 3:17). Rather than being pugnacious, we should be gentle." – David Huffstutler



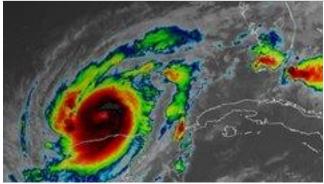


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## Josh Howerton



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Sermon on the Mount Wk. 8 "Happy are the Peacemakers" By Pastor Jody May 10/13/2024

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