

Blessed Are the Peacemakers



Matthew 5:9

- The Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew Chapters 5-7, contains the words of Jesus Christ as He taught His disciples at the outset of His earthly ministry.
- Matthew 5:1-12, begins with the “beatitudes” which describes the character of every Kingdom citizen.

A. As we study these Eight Beatitudes found in Matthew 5:1-10, it will help us to grow in our understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

1. I believe we will learn the distinguishing marks of what it means to be a true Christian and not a carnal Christian.
2. I believe it will cause us to search our own hearts and view our own lives from Christ’s perspective and not the world’s perspective.
3. I believe these qualities reveal the true character of the citizens of the Kingdom of God. The blessing for every Kingdom citizen is the hope and glorious reward that we can expect both now and for eternity.

- The Purpose: to teach us what it truly means to be a true follower of Jesus Christ.
- The Goal: to make us aware of our need for God and to help us to pursue a life that is well-pleasing in the sight of God.
- The word “blessed” is known to mean happy or fortunate. There is a happiness that supersedes what’s happening around us – that is the inner joy and peace that Jesus Christ gives to every true believer.

○ Lessons Taught:

1. (Matthew 5:3) – Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - Being “poor in spirit” is to be in spiritual poverty; to be conscious of one’s continual dependence on God.
2. (Matthew 5:4) – Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.”
 - The word “mourn” means to feel or express grief or sorrow; to have a broken heart over or to be in wailing.

- It is a deep sorrow or to be broken hearted over the state of the world due to sin and the destruction it causes in the life of both believers and unbelievers.
 - (Matthew 5:5) – Blessed are the meek or humble, for they shall inherit the earth.”
 - Jesus Christ demonstrated meekness by His willingness to sacrifice His life for the life of many. (John 3:16, John 4:34, John 9:4-5)
 - The word “meek” means mild temper, gentle, or humble.
 - The word “meekness” does not mean weakness. In other words, it means power under control. (Proverbs 16:32, 25:28)
4. (Matthew 5:6) – “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”
- To hunger and thirst is to have a starving spirit and a parched soul that craves for righteousness.
 - The blessed believers truly hunger and thirst (genuine craving) each and every day to life for Christ and bring glory and honor to His name.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7)
- To be “merciful” means to be actively compassionate.
 - It means to withhold punishment from guilty offenders. It means to forgive those who been justly accused of all wrongdoing.
 - God’s mercy is a reflected in the cross of Christ and it’s a direct reflection of His love, forgiveness and compassion for all mankind. (Ephesians 2:4-10)
 - God’s mercy not only shows us who He is, but it also reveals who we are. (1 John 3:11-18)
 - Christ-centered people can see the world through God’s perspective, and they willingly allow His love and mercy to flow in and through their lives.
 - Those who are recipients of God’s great mercy, should also be merciful toward others.
 - God instructs every believer to be merciful. (Luke 6:30-36)
6. (Matthew 5:8) - Blessed are the Pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

- 1) The word “pure” means to have a clean heart; to be honest, to be unmixed, unpolluted; to be cleansed, purged and forgiven. (Psalm 24:3-5)
- 2) It means to be holy; to have a single purpose, single focus or single-minded, devoted to Jesus Christ and to bring glory and honor to God.
- 3) Being pure in heart does not mean that a person is flawless, perfect or without mistakes.

Blessed are the Peacemakers – Matthew 5:9

- Jesus pronounced blessing on the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.” (vs. 9)
- A. What defines a peacemaker?
1. A peacemaker is someone who brings people together; to make peace between men and God; to solve disputes and erase divisions; to reconcile differences and eliminate strife; to silence false accusations and build relationships.
 2. Jesus is referring to believers who actively “intervene” or come in or between, to settle or stop a situation from rising to a level that can bring harm between both parties either spiritually, physically, or emotionally.
 3. Peacemakers are those who actively seek to reconcile people to God and one another.
 - It mandates action and initiative to bridge the gap between one another.
 - The word “peacemaker” means to do or to make. It means harmony or wholeness.
 4. God is the author of peace. God sent His Son Jesus Christ who is the Supreme peacemaker. (Isaiah 9:6, Hebrews 12:2-3, John 16:33, 14:6, 27)
 - Jesus Christ is the only one who could bridge the gap between God and man. (Acts 4:12, Romans 5:10)

- The greatest need for all mankind is peace with God and the peace of God. (Romans 5:1-2, Philippians 4:6-7)
 - No person can be enriched with God's peace until they embrace and accept God's gift – Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:9, 13)
5. Peacemakers are intentional and will take initiative (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).
- They genuinely want to see God intervene in the situation in order to bring love, peace, reconciliation and healing.
- 1) It mandates action and initiative to build relationships, and not destruction to them.
 - 2) It means the believer must stand with God as it relates to truth, justice, humility, love, mercy, and grace, not personal feeling or taking sides due to personal relationship.
6. Peacemakers daily rely on God's wisdom (James 1:5, 3:13-18)
- The true believer understands that life will bring its own set of circumstances and challenges that require God's wisdom and directions in order to live a peaceable life.
 - The good news for believers that we can go to God daily and ask for His wisdom, and He willingly gives it to us. (James 1:5)
- B. What is the difference between human wisdom and God's wisdom?
1. Human wisdom is driven by selfish ambition, and is rooted and grounded in pride, conceit, arrogance; it is fueled with bitter envy, confusion, self-seeking and demonic.
 2. Human wisdom tears down, instead of building people up.
 3. God is the source of true wisdom. (James 3:13-18)
 - True wisdom comes from God, and not from this world (educators, counselors and scholars)
 - True wisdom cannot come from seeking the knowledge and wisdom of men of this world – it comes from seeking and asking God. (Matthew 7:7-8)
 4. God's wisdom is so superior to human wisdom (James 3:17-18).

- Apostle James gives us some distinguishing characteristics between God's wisdom and human wisdom. What are they? (James 3:17-18)
1. God's wisdom is pure.
 - The word "pure" means to be pure from fault and defilement; it means moral purity; to be completely separated from impurity and wrong-doing and set apart unto God.
 2. God's wisdom is peaceable. The word "peaceable or peace-loving" means to bind together, to join and weave together.
 - God's wisdom enables us to be able to navigate through confusion in order to maintain peace and to make peace where it has been broken between two individuals or two groups.
 - God's wisdom enables us to bring men closer to God and to each other.
 3. God's wisdom is gentle. (Ephesians 4:2, Colossians 3:13, Titus 3:2)
 - The word "gentle" means kind, considerate, reasonable, or forbearance.
 - God's wisdom helps us to see people and their situation from Christ's perspective and not our own.
 - To help us to be patient and never neglecting, condemning, criticizing or being too harsh or critical.
 4. God's wisdom helps the peacemaker to be "submissive" or willing to yield.
 - The word means reasonable; be willing to listen to reason and to appeal; being willing to change when one is wrong. (James 1:19-20)
 5. God's wisdom is full of mercy. (Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:4)
 - The word "mercy" means to have feelings of pity, compassion, affection, and kindness.
 - It does not discriminate (saint or sinner), it reaches out toward others no matter how are they have fallen into sin.
 6. God's wisdom is full of good fruit. (Galatians 6:10, Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - Peacemakers are totally committed to the work of Christ, by sharing the gospel of Christ to those who are lost, grieving, hurting, and suffering, in our community, city, nation, and world.

7. **God's wisdom is impartial. (Romans 2:11)**
 - It means to show no partiality, bias, or favoritism to anyone.
 - It means to be undivided in our convictions and judgments.
8. **God's wisdom is without hypocrisy. (1 John 4:20)**
 - It means being sincere, not fake, not play-acting, hiding behind a mask, not teaching or saying one thing and doing another.

C. Things to Know About being a Peacemaker.

1. **The peacemaker is a person who has made peace with God and knows the peace of God through Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1-2, Philippians 4:6-7)**
2. **Being a peacemaker doesn't mean life without challenges or difficulty. (John 16:33)**
3. **Being a peacemaker doesn't mean playing God. (Isaiah 45:5-7)**
 - **The believer is a Christ representative and ambassador in the earth, but we are not God. (2 Corinthians 5:20)**
4. **Being a peacemaker doesn't mean being a troublemaker. (Romans 16:17-18)**
 - **Troublemakers do not display the character of Jesus Christ in their life. (Galatians 5:22-26)**
 - **A troublemaker is someone who is mean-spirited, an agitator, enjoys stirring up strife, or creating conflict between people.**
 - **Troublemakers enjoy making trouble for the sake of making trouble. Their life is filled with discontent, envy, jealousy, bitterness, strife, malice and unforgiveness.**
 - **Troublemakers enjoy spreading rumors, gossiping, and causing division among fellow-believers.**
5. **Christ-followers will be known as peacemakers and recognized as sons of God. (Matthew 5:9)**
 - **True servants of Christ will share His name and mission. They will never allow an opportunity to pass without sharing Christ's message of love, hope, peace and forgiveness with others.**