

# Meeker Christian Church August 18, 2024

## #7 Peacemakers

Today is our 7<sup>th</sup> in the series from the Beatitudes blessings in Matthew. Moses some 1500 years earlier had also been directed to bless the people: **Numbers 6:22-26** *And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 23 “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: 24 “The LORD bless you and keep you; 25 The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; 26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.”*

Our spiritual faith and the Old Testament Bible have as their foundation the history and calling of the nation of Israel. In that regard - that blessing of Moses is very much intended for us as well. (Read again 24-26)

The Beatitudes of our series are the N.T. blessing record of the teachings of JESUS to HIS disciples to be transmitted to all of us. Listen and rejoice in the promises of Your Father who Art In Heaven:

**Matthew 5:1-9** *And seeing the multitudes, He (Jesus) went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He (Jesus) opened His mouth and taught them, saying:*

3 #1 *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

4 #2 *Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.*

5 #3 *Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth*

6 #4 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

7 #5 *Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.*

8 #6 *Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.*

9 #7 *Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.*

10 #8 *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

11 *Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. 13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill*

*cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.*

The familiar Hebrew word “Shalom” is a starting place for our understanding of what it means to be a peacemaker. In contemporary usage, shalom can be used idiomatically (id-i-o-mat-ic-ally) to mean hello or goodbye. It may refer to non-conflict, or it may also refer to the well-being of the one to whom it is addressed. In context it may also refer to health, prosperity, and peace of mind and spirit. In the deeper meaning of the Hebrew definition beyond a wish for peace and happiness, the word suggests a state of fullness and perfection; overflowing inner and outer joy and peaceful serenity. Shalom might be called the peace of the Lord. It is completeness, soundness, well-being, complete reconciliation. Shalom to you, my brothers and sisters.

One of the names of God is Yahweh-Shalom, or The Lord Our Peace which comes from **Judges 6:24** *So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it The-Lord-Is-Peace. ~~To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.~~*

Jesus is also called the Prince of Peace: **Isaiah 9:6** *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Reflect for just a moment on the depth of intent of this definition of being a peacemaker. When we are urged to be peacemakers and thereby blessed for being peacemakers - we are in fact, - being urged to consider and compare ourselves to the model of Jesus and our Heavenly Father. /// – God and Jesus are the epitome of peacemakers poured out through the Holy Spirit. They are the power and authority to enforce peace, and provider of the consequential blessings or curse of the created creatures response to the command of being a peacemaker. Therefore the absolute meaning of shalom/peace, of being a peacemaker, becomes possible only through accepting and committing to Jesus as Lord and then learning and living His righteousness.

**Matthew 5:9** *#7 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.*

We Christians become peacemakers in a troubled world and we become partial channels for God's mercy, purity, and peace upon our fellow man. From William Barclay's commentary I quote: "Blessed are those who make this world a better

place for all men to live in." The Jewish Rabbis held that the highest task which a man can perform is to establish right relationships between man and man. (~~William Barclay~~ page 110) "There are people who are always storm-centers of trouble and bitterness and strife. Wherever they are they are either involved in quarrels themselves or the cause of quarrels between others. They are trouble-makers. There are people like that in almost every society and every Church, and such people are doing the devil's own work. On the other hand-thank GOD- there are people in whose presence bitterness cannot live, people who bridge the gulfs, and heal the breaches, and sweeten the bitterness. Such people are doing a godlike work, for it is the great purpose of GOD to bring peace between men and himself, and between man and man. The man who divides men is doing the devil's work; the man who unites men is doing God's work." unquote

I pause here for a moment in recognition of your elected leaders of Meeker Christian Church who are inspiring and as peacemakers leading us in effectively serving the Lord. It is more challenging and time consuming than you might imagine. For me it is a privilege to serve under their tutelage.///

I read that there are 429 references in the KJV to peace, peaceful, peacemakers - lets look at some of those as they appear in different contexts:

#### Non-peace on earth

There is no assurance of peace on earth, in fact, **Isaiah 57:21** *"There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked."*

**Matthew 10:34** *"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword."*

The mission of Jesus' life on earth was to separate righteousness from unrighteousness and that meant conflict then and now against the prince of the earth who is satan. But that should not cause despair for believers, but rather be a faith builder-- for it reveals yet again Jesus fulfilling prophecy. And with that we are given more understanding of Old Testament passages of Peace Resulting from force in conflicts:

**Joshua 9:15** *So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them.*

**Judges 3:30** *So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had*

*rest for eighty years.*

After the life of Moses and into the Period of the Judges we see further historical examples of the results of conflict.

**1 Chronicles 22:9** *Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days.*

Without Jesus, humankind has a continuing history of turning to the obvious solution inspired by satanic Humanism and war -Of making conflict the first choice, not the last choice. Rather than the spiritual solution of peace and being peacemakers.

Here are scriptural glimpses of Peace resulting from the love and understanding of peacemakers: Let me emphasize that God has made available lessons for peace and peacemakers, but they must be learned, taught and practiced. And in a pagan world it is sometimes simply impossible, even starting from the defensive position of a Christian. However in these beatitude lessons are the eternal promises of victory incredible - reward unprecedented,- promise consummated over satan and also to be witnesses to the devils eternal destiny.

Dearly beloved, heed carefully and wisely the word of God --- for the alternative is being radiated so powerfully into our contemporary presence as if to suffocate the remaining vestiges of truth and peace. Be strengthened and encouraged by these sacred words leading to and resulting in righteousness.:

**Psalm 34:14** *Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.* And a promise that goes with that instruction in -

**Psalm 37:11** *But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.* That new heaven and new earth will be a delight beyond description.

**Matthew 5:5** *our #3 **Beatitude**: Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.* That promise starts now with our faith work in kingdom service.

Helpful instruction for growing in that faith and action include:

**Psalm 37:37** *Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace.*

**Psalm 85:8-10** *I will hear what God the LORD will speak, For He will speak peace*

*To His people and to His saints; But let them not turn back to folly. **9** Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, That glory may dwell in our land.*

***10** Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.*

**Romans 8:6-7** *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*

**Romans 14:17-19** *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **18** For he who serves Christ in [these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. **19** Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.*

**2 Timothy 2:22** *Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

**Hebrews 12:14** *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:*

This next scripture may be considered as armor that will spiritually protect and sustain every believer through the volatile time ahead:

**Romans 16:20** *And the God of peace will crush satan under your feet shortly.*

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*

I commend you who understand the truth of God's word and have chosen to commit to the lifestyle of peacemakers. Your assurance of the peace promised and expressed in the Bible is just as secure as your salvation. But they both depend on the heart conviction we touched on last week. The lukewarm or socially acceptable Christian era is coming to an end, the assumed or hoped for default heavenly protection is being challenged and crumbling in our generation and will be revealed at the moment of **1 Corinthians 15:52** *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

**Romans 16:20** *And the God of peace will crush satan under your feet shortly.*

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*

Matthew 5:9 #7 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

Our invitation song is \_\_\_\_ Let me read from the inside cover of your bulletin:

**Numbers 6:22-26**

**Matthew 5:1-9**

**Judges 6:24**

**Isaiah 9:6**

**Matthew 5:9**

**Isaiah 57:21**

**Matthew 10:34**

**Joshua 9:15**

**Judges 3:30**

**1 Chronicles 22:9**

**Psalms 34:14**

**Psalms 37:11**

**Matthew 5:5**

**Psalms 37:37**

**Psalms 85:8-10**

**Romans 8:6-7**

**Romans 14:17-19**

**2 Timothy 2:22**

**Hebrews 12:14**

**Romans 16:20**

**1 Corinthians 15:52**

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**Matthew 5:9**