

Meeker Christian Church  
Pastor Jim Pelley  
3-2-25  
Peacemaker

Today's scripture setting is of Jesus teaching the beatitudes and is explained in Matthew 4:23 *23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.* That introduces us to today's scripture in Matthew 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.*

Jesus' relationship with being the Prince of Peace was prophesied over 700 years before his birth in Isaiah 9:6-7 *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. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this...*

That prophecy pretty well covers the life and ministry of Jesus from His birth to the millennium and into eternity!

There is a contrasting scripture also from the teaching of Jesus teaching in Matthew 10:34-39 with Jesus expounding on His divine directive. It will help us to think clearly as we seek application for our individual Christian life and kingdom service. Listen to Jesus in Matthew 10:34-39 *34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."*

In this scripture Jesus tells his apostles that HE did not come to bring peace on earth, but a sword. The explanation is that here, Jesus emphasized loyalty to HIM above everything and warns that following HIM will require sacrifice and suffering.

While Jesus is the Prince of Peace, which is defined as being the peacemaker between God and sinners, outward ease and worldly tranquility should not be expected as a consequence of HIS coming. The purpose of Jesus' earthly life, death and resurrection provided the means by which sinners could be forgiven and live as peacemakers after the model of the Saviour and His provision of peace between us and our Heavenly Father, that is the function of the Prince of Peace..

Jesus taught for our life application that on earth there is a Godly standard for living and being a peacemaker in spite of the circumstances in life results in a heavenly reward.

So let's examine scripture for the Christian life standard of being a peacemaker: Romans 14:19 *Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.*

Paul urges us to "pursue the things which make for peace" which he starts off with "and the things by which one may edify another."

The pursuit of peace by a peacemaker assumes the pursuer has a clear concept of peace in place in their heart and mind! The true disciples of Jesus, Christians, make peace as we live and teach the gospel that brings people into a peaceful relationship with God and with one another.

People who seek to make peace behave as true sons and daughters of God. God called Israel sons and He charged the Israelites with bringing their Gentile neighbors into peaceful relationship with Himself. Exodus 19:5-6 *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.*" Whereas Israel failed largely in that Godly instruction, the Son of God - Messiah - succeeded completely. Those who follow Christ faithfully will demonstrate concern for the peace of humanity by leading people to understand the one true God.

The Christian, when baptized, was gifted and equipped with the Holy Spirit to be a peacemaker. Not merely to be peaceable people, but to model and make peace. It is hard to keep the peace, it is even more difficult to bring peace where it is not even understood or conceived correctly. The perfect peacemaker is a child of God Ephesians 2:14 *14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation...* As a living, breathing, saved from sin, appreciative expression to God, our redeemer, we want to serve and please God's standard. God's standard has all the wisdom of the ages behind it, and the hope and destiny of the future for others revealed in it. Who taught you about God's covenant with mankind? That person was a bonafide peacemaker.

John 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:* Peacemaker is your description --please be aware of the truth of your gifted virtue, not as merely an offspring in creation, but as the offspring of God's truth and holiness. Being a peacemaker is a unique privilege or

right, not a universal endowment for all persons born. I think this is further captured in these verses talking about and describing the Christian virtue of being a peacemaker...

Hebrews 12:14 *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.* The writer of Hebrews again emphasized peaceful pursuit for the Christian ambition.

James 3:16-18 *16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

Do you see your divinely inherited role of being a peacemaker as part of the Christian life? James wants us to examine our personal lifestyle, attitude, actions and goals of life to see how they are aligning with God's plan, provision and practices in our lives.

Let me share something here that means a lot to me - in conversation with some who have started attending - one of our members asked what they liked about MCC, the reply; "the loving, accepting, and inviting atmosphere." Listen carefully - those descriptions describe a peacemaker, and remind us that it requires pursuit, prayer, personal involvement, and sincere work. Praise the Lord for that testimony that encourages us that we are obeying God's leadership.

I am afraid at times that we express the frustration of David in Psalm 120:6 *My soul has dwelt too long With one who hates peace.*

That becomes a sad excuse satan uses to discredit and destroy.

Let me continue with more scriptural encouragement to rally our resources of material goods, property and peacemakers to invite others to participate in our God driven efforts.

Romans 12:18 *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

A friend shared with me this week something he had recently read that is a wake up call for every one of us... In effect as I remember it he said: "We determine our own attitude." I thought about it and came under conviction - think about it, perhaps even make a note on the bulletin or write on your arm - YOU determine every moment in life what your attitude and response is or will be!

Here are some more Paul written inspirations from God for OUR encouragement, motivation, and happiness...

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

Peacemaker is a harvest of a fruit of the Spirit of God - a result of your Spiritual gift(s)

A reasonable service - a response of love, compassion and spiritual passion...

Romans 14:17-19 *17 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.*

Paul lays it on the line: The kingdom of God, the abode of Christians now on earth, and continuing into eternity with God includes peace which is a product of peacemakers... a Christ serving peacemaker is acceptable to God and approved by men. And again in this passage, we are enjoined to pursue being a peacemaker, in making peace, but Oh so critical for our church to “edify another,” as the verse instructs. My folks put it like this to my brother and I, “if you cannot say something nice, do not say anything at all.” I have found that to be a legitimate consideration for one called to be a peacemaker.

Jesus made a new covenant, a new provision for mankind to have peace when he took on the sins of all mankind on the cross of calvary. Just like in the Old Testament, the 10 commandments are a summary of “peace” for mankind. But also like in the Old Testament, we of the New Testament must make a choice! People must choose to be obedient to Jesus for this peace to be a reality, everyone would have to take part in it for perfect peace to prevail. That is what makes heaven so appealing as peace will prevail!

This invitation time is first and foremost for anyone present who has heard about Jesus personal sacrifice that became the provision for our salvation, who have accepted the truth of the message and believe it, who repent of the actions in the lives contrary to the message of becoming a peacemaker, and choose to be baptized - if that is you, then please come forward and speak to me during the singing of the song.

The second aspect of today’s invitation is to ask every baptized Christian to evaluate their peacemaker practices and be led by their indwelling Holy Spirit accordingly, and thirdly today’s invitation is for anyone who is a Christian who are ready to transfer their membership to serve with us in this community.