

Making Peace
Matthew 5:9

ETS: Jesus said that peacemakers would be blessed by God

ESS: When we make peace we are like Christ

OSS: **Peace lovers are Peace Makers**

PQ: Are you a peacemaker?

ME

This has been (and most likely will be) a **tumultuous** week!

- You may not be feeling a sense of **peace!**
- You may be feeling a sense of **fear**
 - Are there going to be riots?
 - Is there going to be social unrest?

Go to your “happy place” (Beach, lake, mountain top, or backyard hammock)

- Why do you like your “happy place”?
 - Quite, relaxing, soothing, comforting....

Close your eyes (play some soothing music)

- Go to your “happy place”
- Breathe in slowly, breathe out slowly
- Let your body relax

- Remove all thoughts from your mind

Did you enjoy the mental journey to your happy place?

Did you feel a peace for a few moments?

Do you LIKE being at peace?

Do you WANT to be at peace?

That word “peace” just sounds nice.

- When you think of peace what comes to your mind?
 - Quietness? As in “let’s have some peace and quiet around here.”
- When you think of peace what comes to your mind?
 - Calmness? A sense of serenity
 - Imagine yourself sitting next to a **pond** with the **wind gently blowing**, the **temperature pleasant** and the forest around you quiet.
 - That is my concept of peace.
- When you think of peace what comes to your mind?
 - Relaxation? No *pressure*. No *rush*. No *deadlines*.

Isn't that the cry of people? Peace!

- Aren't we always hearing that we want peace! We want peace so much that it even has its own **symbols**

Tell me what this means "V-Sign" with hands

- Yes. It is called the "V-sign", or the "peace sign" or the "victory sign."
 - It was used as a sign for victory during the Second World War by Winston Churchill.
- It then developed into a **peace** sign during **protests** in the USA against the **Vietnam War** (and subsequent anti-war protests)
 - The hippies of the day often flashed this sign while **vocalizing "Peace"**

Tell me what this means "Peace sign" (**Graphic**)

- Unlike the "V-Sign" this is an internationally recognized symbol for peace.
 - It was originally designed for the **British nuclear disarmament movement**.
- It is a *little younger* than the "V-sign" because it wasn't developed until 1958
 - The symbol was later adopted by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).
 - It was then adopted by the **1960s anti-war movement**,

Tell me what this means “[dove](#) and the [olive branch](#),”
(Graphic)

- These are **ancient symbols** for peace
 - In **Greek** tradition, **olive** branches represent **peace**.
 - **Defeated Roman armies** displayed olive branches as a [white flag](#) to indicate surrender

We will **give up** things just to have PEACE!

- **Countries** will give up land for PEACE
- We may give up **freedoms** for PEACE

What is there not to **love** about peace?

- We want **peace** with our **neighbors**
- We want **peace** with our **family**
- We want **peace** with our **friends**
- We want **peace** with **ourselves**
- We want **peace** with the **world**

Would you agree that we live in a WORLD that desperately needs peace?

- According to Will and Ariel Durant, in their book *The Lessons of History*, in the last **3,421**

years of recorded history only 268 have seen NO war.”¹¹

- It has been estimated that during all those years of war, **3.64 billion** people have been killed.
 - The **value** of the property destroyed would pay for a **golden belt** around the world **97.2 miles wide and 33 feet thick.**

We live in a world that **craves peace!**

- In the **lifetime** of many in our church, they have experienced **WWII**-in which an estimated **50 million** people died, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, Gulf war, Iraq War and War in Afghanistan.
 - We constantly hear about “**peace talks**” or the “**Road to Peace**”

Our situation is not unique!

- **Wars were going on in Jesus’ day**

Jesus is sitting on a **mountainside** teaching a group of Jewish men.

- These men, along with Jesus, had grown up in a **culture of tension**

¹ Will and Ariel Durant, *The Lessons of History* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1968), p. 81.

¹R. Kent Hughes, *The Sermon on the Mount : The Message of the Kingdom*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001), 61.

- A **culture** in which peace was always being **challenged**.

For example, they were living under the **rule** of the **Romans**.

- **Less than 100** years before the Roman general **Pompey** had subdued the Jews and brought them under Roman rule.
- When Jesus was born, the Roman Governor, **Herod the Great** was on the throne
 - Herod had he successfully **campaign**ed against **Galilean** bandits, executing the leaders.
 - This led to a **showdown** with the Jewish **Sanhedrin** in Jerusalem-which Herod won.²
- Herod also had all the baby **boys** in Bethlehem **killed** upon hearing the news of Jesus' birth

As you can tell, there was not much peace between the Jews and the Romans.

- In fact, later Jesus called **Herod Antipas** “**that fox**”
 - It was Herod Antipas that had **John the Baptist** executed

²Paul J. Achtemeier, Publishers Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature, *Harper's Bible Dictionary*, Includes Index., 1st ed. (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985), 385.

About 30 years after Jesus' ministry, the tensions erupted into an all-out revolt that became known as **The Great Revolt!**

So the tension in their world was like the tension in our world!

One would **expect** that when **Jesus** is giving this **set of teachings** to His **disciples** that He would talk about **peace!**

- After all, Christ was prophesied by **Isaiah** the prophet to be the **“Prince of Peace”!**
- At his birth the angels celebrated this fulfillment, singing, **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests”** (Luke 2:14).³

WHAT is Peace?

HOW do you have Peace?

WHY do you want Peace?

GOD

Turn to Matthew **Mt 5:9** **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”**
(CSB)

³R. Kent Hughes, *The Sermon on the Mount : The Message of the Kingdom*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001), 64.

Is this a verse about becoming a **pacifist**?

- **Pacifists** *love this verse!*
- A **Pacifist** is a person who **opposes war** or **violence** as a means of settling disputes
 - They argue that the **Beatitudes** (especially the seventh) are “**the real gospel**”; if only men would practice them, the world would be **renewed**.⁴

Is this a verse about war?

Mt 5:9 “**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.**” (CSB)

- *Notice that Jesus did **not** say: “**Blessed are the PEACELOVERS, because they will be called sons of God.**”*

WHY *didn't* Jesus--the “**Prince of Peace**” --say that “**Peace lovers**” are the blessed people?

- Didn't Jesus love peace?

WHAT does this beatitude mean? Let's **dissect** “**peacemakers**”

Peace

- **The Jews had a word for peace it is *Shalom***

⁴R. Kent Hughes, *The Sermon on the Mount : The Message of the Kingdom*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001), 65.

- They used it like we use the word “**Hello**” or “**Goodbye**”
 - It was their **greeting** and their **farewell** statement.

So if you greeted someone you said “**Shalom**” or “**Peace**”

- The word “**Shalom**” referred to **health of body and soul**
 - In other words to greet someone with Shalom is to say “**I wish you health of both your body and your soul**”

Go back to that mental image I asked you to think about in your mind—the image of sitting beside a pond, with a gentle breeze blowing and the forest quiet.

- What makes that a peaceful scene?
 - From the outside it appears that your *body and soul are at rest*
 - Things are **quiet** in your body and soul!
 - There is **peace!**

Do you know a “ROOT WORD” is?

- Root words in **English** are **Latin or Greek** words which form the basis of a word that, generally speaking, can't be used as a standalone word.

Example:

- Cardiovascular, electrocardiogram, cardiology
 - Root word: Cardio (Gr) = Heart
- Democracy, Demographic, Democrat
 - Root Word: Dem = People
- Manuscript, postscript, scripture
 - Root Word: Script = to Write

The word “Shalom” comes from the **Hebrew root word** meaning “**complete.**”⁵

- It refers to a feeling of completeness
 - You don’t feel like anything is **lacking**
 - You are **satisfied**

“Makers”

- When you “**make**” something *you* “**do**” it
 - You are the *active* party!

HOW TO Have a BLEST Life?

Make Peace

Paraphrase: “O the blessedness of those who pursue the **completeness** of others”

⁵Joyce Eisenberg, Ellen Scolnic and Jewish Publication Society, *The JPS Dictionary of Jewish Words*, Over 1000 Entries for Jewish Holidays and Life-Cycle Events, Culture, History, the Bible and Other Sacred Texts, and Worship. Each Entry Has a Pronunciation Guide and Is Cross-Referenced to Related Terms.; "A JPS Desk Reference"--Cover. (Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society, 2001), 147.

WHAT can COMPLETE a person?

- Ultimately, it is a **relationship** with **God!**
 - YOU are NOT complete unless you have a **relationship** with God.

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful.”

Philippians 4:6-7 “Don’t worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

WARNING: Don’t confuse “peacemaker” with “peace lover”!

- Jesus does not say “Blessed are the ‘peacelovers.’”
 - **Anybody** can be a “**peace lover**”!
Peacemakers work to bring wholeness or completeness to people

How does a person go about being a “**peacemaker**?”

Peacemakers are *honest*.

- The peacemaker is **honest** about the **problem!**

Christ was always honest about what was causing problems

- He was **honest** with the **religious leaders** about their **traditions**
 - Why was Christ so brutally **honest** with them about their traditions?
 - Because their **traditions** were hurting the kingdom of God; they were creating great **burdens** upon the people!

Don't confuse “peace loving” with “Peace making”!

Jeremiah was a prophet during a **spiritually low point** in his countries history

- They were **not following** God
- They were going through the motions of worship, but their **actions** were clearly **against God**.

Jeremiah was **calling** the people to **repentance**!

- He was being **honest** with them about their **sin**!
 - Jeremiah knew that the only way that they would have peace was if they responded in repentance to God.

Opposite of Jeremiah were the other prophets.

- They were the **vast majority**

- They had **positions** in the temple
- They were part of the **institution**-an institution that had gone away from God.
- They were “**peace lovers**”

Here is what **God** said about these “**peace loving prophets**” in **Je 6:14** “**They have treated My people’s brokenness superficially, claiming: Peace, peace, when there is no peace.**”

- They didn’t want to be honest with the people
 - They wanted to appease the people
 - They were **not** “**peacemakers**”

As a **result** of the people following the “**peace loving prophets**” they were taken into **captivity**!

Paraphrase: “O the Blessedness of those who are honest *with the goal to bring about completeness*”

Peacemakers are **honest**

- A peacemaker is **painfully honest** about the **true status** of relationships in the world, in the society in which he moves, and in his own personal dealings.
- A peacemaker is **admits failed** relationships.
- A peacemaker is **admits** when he is at odds with others if it is so.

- A peacemaker is honestly **acknowledges tension** if others have something against him.
- A peacemaker is **does not pretend**.
- A peacemaker is **refuses** to say, “Peace, peace!” *when there is no peace.*⁶

Jesus was always honest with people about their heart’s condition!

Peacemakers show others how to have inward peace with God!

IF YOU want to be peacemaker, it starts with being honest with yourself and with God!

IF YOU want to be peacemaker, it continues with being honest with others about their need for a relationship with God!

Paraphrase: “O the Blessedness of those who are honest with the goal to bring about completeness”

HOW TO Have a BLEST Life? **Make Peace**

Do you know WHY we confuse Peacemakers with PEACELOVERS?

⁶R. Kent Hughes, *The Sermon on the Mount : The Message of the Kingdom*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001), 63.

Do you know WHY we rather be PEACELOVERS than Peacemakers?

Peacemakers take risks

It was a **risk** for **Jeremiah** to be honest with the people

- **Jeremiah** paid a **high price** for his honesty
 - He was **persecuted** (12:6; 15:15–18), **plotted against** (11:18–23; 18:18), **imprisoned** (20:2), **declared worthy of death** (26:10f., 24; *cf.* vv. 20–23; 36:26) and his **prophecies** in written form were **destroyed** (36:27).⁷

Why did he take such risks?

- *He wanted peace to come to his people!*

Jesus paid a **high price** for His honesty

- Ultimately, He was **crucified** because He told the **truth**
 - He told the truth to bring peace to a people who were under spiritual bondage.

Peacemakers are willing to *risk pain*.

cf confer (Lat.), compare

⁷D. R. W. Wood and I. Howard Marshall, *New Bible Dictionary*, 3rd ed. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1996), 551.

- Peacemakers risk **misunderstanding** and **failure**.
- If they have done wrong, **peacemakers** are willing to go through the pain of **apologizing**.
- Peacemakers are willing to go through the **pain** of **rebuking**—*out of love*--**another** who is in the wrong.

Peace lovers are **willing** to “**let things slide**” whereas **peace makers** **risk pain** to make things right.

- When things are “right” there is **wholeness, completeness** that occurs.

We all probably know the **feeling** of **not caring** enough to **confront**.

- We **never** find ourselves at **peace** with those people because we **never dealt** with the problem.
- We **never** feel like the **air** is **cleared** because we “**let things slide**” and never dealt with them.

We have all been guilty of trying to rationalize our **tendency** to be “**peace loving**” at the expense of taking the risk of honesty by **conning** ourselves into believing that honesty will “**only make things worse**.”⁸

⁸R. Kent Hughes, *The Sermon on the Mount : The Message of the Kingdom*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001), 63.

To be a Peacemaker, you have to be willing to take a risk and talk to people about their relationship with God.

- Don't Assume! (Alex?)

HOW TO Have a BLEST Life? Make Peace

Peacemakers are concerned about others being in a right relationship with God

Peacemaking is not easy!

- It involves risk, honesty and allowing Christ to control us.
- It involves “speaking the truth in love”
- It involves the control of the Holy Spirit
 - It involves allowing the gifts of kindness, gentleness and self-control.⁹
- It involves humility
- It involves love

The peace maker is not out to destroy people, but rather to bring peace to their lives!

- The true peacemaker is not afraid of making waves, because his/her goal is peace.¹⁰

⁹Ibid. 64.

¹⁰Ibid. 62.

Paraphrase: “O the blessedness of those who **to take risks** for the sake of **honesty** with the goal of bringing spiritual wholeness?”

HOW TO Have a BLEST Life? **Make Peace**

Why be a peacemaker? **To Be Identified with God**

Mt 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." (CSB)

- Jesus said “they will be called sons of God”

Can you think of a greater privilege than to be called a “son” or “child” of God?

- Why would peace makers have that title?

Is God called a God of peace? Yes!

- At least 7 times in the New Testament He is called “**The God of peace**”
 - So those who are peace makers are acting like their Father God!

Going **HD**, the word “**they**” is **emphatic**

- In other words, “**They and they alone will be called sons of God**”

When we “bring peace”, and “proclaim peace” we are like Christ!

- In Eph. 2:14, Paul called Christ “*our peace*”
- In Eph. 2:17, Paul called Christ “*proclaimed the good news of peace*”

Who calls them “sons of God”? God!

- God looks at “peacemakers” and God Himself calls them His “sons” b/c they are acting like Him!
 - Peacemakers respond to people with the same character of God!
 - Peacemakers reflect the character of God

Peacemakers remind us of God Himself!

Peacemakers point people to God

Peacemakers show the grace and mercy of God!

What an honor and privilege to be called a “Son of God”!

HOW TO Have a BLEST Life?

Make Peace

YOU

Are you a peacemaker?

- NOT, are you peace lover, but....
 - Are you a peacemaker?

Is your life characterized by **honesty**?

- Are you willing to tell the truth even when the truth hurts?
- Are you willing to tell the truth even if it means admitting a mistake on your part?

Are you willing take **risks** for the cause of making peace?

- Are you willing to risk **comfort** and **confront** a **tense** situation?
- Are you willing to risk your **pride** and **admit** failure?
- Are you willing to risk the **pain** of **telling** the **truth** in **love** to another brother/sister who is in **sin**?

Are you a peacemaker?

Is your character such that it reveals to people that God is your Father?

- Can people see a difference in your life?
- Do people see the humility, love, self-control, kindness and truth of God in your life?
 - Does your character reflect the fact that you are a “child of God”?

Are you a peacemaker?

