

Blessed are the Peacemakers

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – May 28, 2023

Matthew 5:1-12

1 Now when [Jesus] saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

1. A PEACEMAKER IS DIFFERENT THAN A PEACEKEEPER

- A peacekeeper looks to avoid conflict at any cost...
- A peacekeeper seeks to please others, rather than please God.
- A peacemaker is someone who is actively involved in creating harmony where conflict once existed.
- A peacemaker faces the conflict with truth and looks to resolve it.

2. PEACE IS A CENTRAL COMPONENT OF CHRIST'S CHARACTER

- GOD IS A GOD OF PEACE

1 Corinthians 14:33

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

- JESUS IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- HIS BIRTH USHERED IN A KINGDOM OF PEACE

Luke 2:13-14

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

- JESUS CONVEYS HIS PEACE ON US

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 20:19

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

- THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CONTAINS PEACE

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control...

3. TO BE A PEACEMAKER DEMONSTRATES WE ARE GOD'S CHILD

Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons (daughters) of God.

John 17:20-21

20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

Ephesians 2:13-14

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace...