

The Beatitudes

Being the followers Jesus longs for



Session 7

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”
Matthew 5:9

A Few Notes for Understanding the Beatitudes

Audience:

The primary audience is the disciples. There are crowds listening, but Jesus directs his teaching to his committed followers.

Purpose:

Jesus is purposefully teaching his disciples the essentials they must know about being his followers and the blessings that result.

Message: The disciple Jesus longs for...

1. is **“poor in spirit.”** They **RECOGNIZE** their desperate need for God and totally trust Him.
The Blessing: You belong to God and know that He is in control.
2. **“mourns.”** They **GRIEVE** over sin and the damage it has caused in their lives and world.
The Blessing: Mourning leads to confession and repentance which brings God’s new life.
3. is **“meek”** meaning they are **HUMBLE**, but **CONFIDENT** in their relationships with God and others and **SUBMIT** to God and God’s ways.
The Blessing: In the end, the meek, will inherit the kingdom of God for eternity.
4. **“hungers and thirsts for righteousness”** They **COMMIT** themselves to doing what is right in their own life and towards others.
The Blessing: You’ll be filled with God’s presence bringing His righteousness, love and life!
5. is **“merciful”**. They **FORGIVE** others because they realize that God has shown them incredible mercy and they are grateful.
The Blessing: Your mercy shows that you’ve already experienced God’s incredible mercy.
6. is **“pure in heart”**. They have an **UNDIVIDED** commitment to God and **INTEGRITY** in their relationships with others.
The Blessing: You can confidently approach God and enjoy His presence and attention.

BIBLE STUDY

Read Isaiah 53:5, Colossians 1:19-20, and Romans 5:1.

1. What type of peace are these verses talking about? Why is this peace necessary?
2. Why would Jesus consider peacemaking a distinguishing mark of one of His followers?

Read Romans 12:18, Romans 14:19, 2 Corinthians 13:11, and Hebrews 12:14.

3. What keeps getting repeated? Why do you think this seems to be so important?

Read Ephesians 2:14-18.

4. According to this passage making peace between us and God was only the first step in Jesus' mission and purpose. What is the next step? What does this add to your understanding of peacemaking and why it is so important?

Read Ephesians 2:11-13.

5. The blessing of being a peacemaker is to be called a child of God. According to Ephesians, what is the blessing of being a child of God?

APPLY

1. Review the previous beatitudes. How can the characteristics described in those beatitudes help you be a peacemaker?
2. The Hebrew concept of peace (shalom) means more than just an absence of hostility, it also means total well being. When you are a peacemaker, you are doing more than removing hostility; you are working to better the lives of others. Think of your own life and the interactions you have with others. Where is there a need for a "shalom" kind of peace in your relationships?
3. James 3:18 says, "And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness" (NLT). A "seed of peace" is a vivid image. Think of what a seed accomplishes and how it grows once planted, how might that apply to being a peacemaker?
4. In the situation you identified in question 3, what specific things can you do to sow seeds of peace? There are scriptures on the next page that will give you additional insights on things you can do to sow seeds of peace.

Read Ephesians 4:1-3 and Colossians 3:15.

5. When you are tempted to not make peace, what will help you get back on track?

PRAY

Start your prayer time with words of praise and thanks for the peace God has made with you. Then pray that God will fill you with His peace.

VERSES ON SOWING “SEEDS OF PEACE”

Read Psalm 34:1-14. These verses offer a number of instructions. What are all the things you are encouraged to do? How are you doing with each one? What does it mean to pursue peace? Are you pursuing peace? How can these instructions help you be a peacemaker? What is God saying to you?

Read Ephesians 4:20-32. How will the instructions given here create peace? In which areas are you doing well and in which areas do you need to grow? What is God saying to you? Pray and confess the areas where you are doing poorly and ask God to transform you in those areas.

Read Galatians 5:13-26. According to verse 26 what is the source of dissension and strife? What do these verses say are the foundations we need rely on to make peace? What do you do to keep in step with the Spirit? What is God saying to you

Read Philippians 2:1-11. How can this instruction help you be a peacemaker? What reason are we given for developing this type of character? Is that a compelling reason? What do you need to do to grow in this area? What is God saying to you?

Read Colossians 3:1-17. There is a lot of instruction given here that will help you become a strong peacemaker. Break it down into parts. What behavioral things should you start doing? What behavioral things should you stop doing? What spiritual activities should you do to gain God’s strength for doing these things? What is God saying to you? (