

THE CHRISTIAN AND PEACEMAKING.

Matthew 5:9-12

As we continue to study the Sermon on the Mount,
And look at the DNA of Christian conduct.

Jesus calls us to be peacemakers.

Are you a peacemaker or do you like to stir the pot?

Jack has died and left a will.

So the family was gathered anxiously waiting
the reading of Jack's Last Will and Testament.

"To my dear wife Esther, I leave the house, 50 acres of land, and 1 million dollars.

To my son Barry, I leave my Big Lexus and the Jaguar.

To my daughter Suzy, I leave my yacht and \$250,000.

And to my brother-in-law Jeff, who always insisted that
"health is better than wealth, "

I leave my treadmill."

I bet that created many happy miles for old Jef.

What Jesus was saying is that being a Christian means
Getting into trouble.

I'm not talking about causing the trouble

Or being the trouble.

Too often we have done both.

I'm talking about getting into trouble.

Jumping into the game.

You can't be a peacemaker on the sidelines.

Christians are called to take an active role in people troubles.

God says "Jump in."

What staggers the disciples is that Jesus calls them to get out there and become
peacemakers, even to the hated Romans

Wherever there is misunderstanding, hostility, hatred, division, or conflict.

Jump in ,

There goes the safe, cautious lives you have been living.

Persecution is guaranteed to come.

That is why Jesus talks about peace and persecution in the same breath.

Because peacemaking is dangerous.

And Satan is a cunning adversary.

Who would love nothing better than making your life miserable here on earth.

David wrote, "Take delight in the Lord and he will give you your heart's desires." (Psalm 37:4)

Let me share

I. TWO PICTURES OF PEACE

1. Spiritual peace:

This is peace that comes from God.

**That is the peace that we are commissioned
to go out into the world and share.**

**We are Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.
We implore you on Christ's behalf. Be reconciled to God. God make him who had**

no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. II Corinthians 5:20-21

Spiritual peace only comes from God
 I have had more than one person in my office who says”
 How come I can’t find happiness?
 How come I am so miserable inside?
 How come I can’t shake this addiction?
 Because the old nature is at war with our new nature.
 No wonder people are tired and weary
 This world is a battlefield.

I am unspiritual...¹⁵I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do...¹⁷As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. Romans 7:14-17

Every person has the same battle with sin.
 But our peace only comes from Christ.

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! Romans 5:24-25

Jesus is the peacemaker.
 He bring us to God .

That God is on the one side, and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together, by giving his life for all mankind. I Timothy 2:5-6 LB

Because our ultimate goal is to have every person become a child of God
 So all can inherit the kingdom of God.

Peacemaking is progressive
 First it is internal, that is our SPIRITUAL PEACE
 Second it is external...
 We in turn help others find that same peace with God.

**That moves us to a
 2. Social Peace**

In 3530 years of recorded history,
 Only 286 years saw peace in our world.
 That is less than 8:5% of the time.
 Over 8000 peace treaties have been made and broken.
 Moody Bible Institute’s Today In The Word, June, 1988, p. 33

**Wars in the world start with one man or woman
 And Peace starts the same way.**

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:17-18

Jesus understood as we move out into the world as peacemakers
 That we can’t live in peace with everyone.

Because that is idealistic.

He says:

If it be possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Some people are just trouble and not peaceable.

A boy was teaching a girl arithmetic, he said it was his mission.

He kissed her once; he kissed her twice and said, "Now that's addition."

In silent satisfaction, she sweetly gave the kisses back and said, "Now that's subtraction."

Then he kissed her, she kissed him, without an explanation.

And both together smiled and said, "That's multiplication."

Then her Dad appeared upon the scene and made a quick decision.

He kicked that boy three blocks away and said, "That's long division!"

When someone wrongs us too often

The typical reaction of the Christians is retaliation.

¹⁹Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"^[a] says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."^[b] ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:17-21

Why are the divorce statistics are the same for Christian marriages as in the world.

Where are the peacemakers?

Who send missals of love

And not missals of warfare?

Jesus said maybe we need to recheck our personal peace with God.

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. Matt. 5:23-24

Too often we come to church with both our gift and our resentment.

Jesus calls us to responsible living.

Go to your brother and confess your sin,

Forgive and then come and worship.

I am not responsible for my friends attitude,

but I am responsible for mine.

Is there anything in your life that will separate you from God or another person?

II. THE PRICE FOR PEACE

"Having made peace though the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. Colossians 1:20

Jesus made peace with us through the blood of the cross.

The price of peacemaking for God was Jesus death.

But that is the value God placed upon reclaiming us as his children.

The blood of his own Son.

When we are unwilling to forgive others
 Unwilling to give up our bitter feelings, and hate.
 We trample upon the precious body and blood of Christ .

There are basically five areas of misunderstanding
 where our peacemaking become vital.
 Marriage, children, racial prejudice, our opportunities, and our faith in what we believe.

The peace that Jesus gives is not the absence of trouble,
 but is rather the confidence that He is there with us always.

So start tearing down the walls that separate you from your spouse.
 Tear down the walls that alienate you from your children.
 Or from others.

John Adam's vice president, Thomas Jefferson checked into a hotel where a room had been reserved for him. It has been a long ride to Baltimore. The hotel owner, whose name was Boydon, had never met Jefferson. He looked over the dust-covered newcomer carefully. Convinced the man was just a farmer, Boydon said, "We have no room for you, sir." Jefferson again asked for a room and was again told no by Boydon. The vice president left and went a couple of blocks to another hotel. Upon hearing that he had just turned away the vice president of the United States, Boydon sent a man after Jefferson to deeply apologize and bring him back. But Jefferson told the messenger, "Tell him I have engaged a room. Tell Mr. Boydon that I value his good intentions highly, but if he has no room for a dirty farmer, then he has none for the vice president.

Let's tear down the walls of prejudice.

I Peter 3:10-11 says; He that would love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue away from evil and his lips from speaking guile; let him turn away from evil and do right'; let him seek peace and pursue it.

There is a peace to pursue!

We think, "If I lower my guard, he will get me."

Maybe,

But that is God's way.

That is the price we pay for peace.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:9-12

There is a price for peace.

Christ blood was shed.

So we must not make light of this sacrifice.

That is why we must

GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT WHEN IT COMES TO PEACE.

No Christian has the right to be at peace with evil.

There is no such thing in the divine economy as "peace at any price"

If God would have been satisfied with peace at any price,

He would have found a cheaper price than the blood of the cross.
 He would have come to terms with Satan and sin.
 We are to pursue peace,
 By never settling for evil or error,
 lifestyles or language that is outside of God's will for us
 and God's word to us.

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 17 Therefore come out from them and be separate says the lord. Touch no unclean thing and I will receive you. II Corinthians 6:14-17

Peacefulness demands consistency in all our lives,
 in our language, our loving, and our living.
 Too often the church has sacrificed truth for peace.
 We can never build peace by accepting evil.
 We can never build peace by condoning error.

Here is where the church must stand up.
 This is a spiritual war.
 Satan is our adversary.
 He is alive and well.
 And if we listen.
 We can hear him roar.
 We can only pursue peace in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 We must be willing to work and sacrifice for it.

Telemachus was a 4th century monk. God called him go to Rome. When he arrived people were crowding the streets he asked where are they going. They said to the coliseum for the Gladiator games. He thought to himself, "Four centuries after Christ and they are still killing each other, for enjoyment?" He ran to the coliseum and heard the gladiators saying, "Hail to Caesar, we die for Caesar" and he thought, "this isn't right." He jumped over the railing and went out into the middle of the arena. He got between two gladiators, held up his hands and said "In the name of Christ, forbear." The crowd began to shout, "Run him through, Run him through." A gladiator came over and hit him in the stomach with the back of his sword. It sent him sprawling in the sand. He got up and ran back and again said, "In the name of Christ, forbear." The crowd chanted, "Run him through." One gladiator came over and plunged his sword through the little monk's stomach and he fell into the sand, which began to turn crimson with his blood. One last time he gasped out, "In the name of Christ forbear." A hush came over the 80,000 people in the coliseum. Soon one man stood and then left, then another and more, and within minutes all 80,000 had emptied out of the arena. It was the last-known gladiator contest in the history of Rome. One man made a difference.

Remember then the next time your out cursing, in the golf course or garage,
 Or maybe gossiping, and condemning in the kitchen or over coffee.
 Remember thee was another person who hung on the Cross.

And cried out to the father,
 "Forbear in the name of God."
 Forgive them for they know not what they do.
 And we ran him through
 Peace comes to us at a great price.

But there is a

III. THE PRIZE FOR PEACEMAKERS

Note Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

Note it doesn't say for they shall become the children of God.

That happens when we accept Christ.

But Jesus was saying it takes obedience to be called the children of God.

Jesus lived his life in obedience,

That when he was baptized God said:

This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

Are we living our lives as obedient Christians?

That God would be pleased to call us his son or daughter.

Don't expect the world to love us for it.

Because they will persecute us as they did Christ.

Because our obedient lives expose them for what they are,

Lost, alone, and left outside.

That is why Jesus said:

**Think not that I am come to send peace on earth;
 I came not to send peace, but a sword. Matthew 10:34**

Jesus purity and holiness pierced the heart of the evil Pharisee and religious leaders

They either had to crucify self,

Or crucify Christ.

So they did away with him.

The same kind of reception awaits you and me as Christians

When we go out into the arena of the world.

we must be tough.

Are you willing to step up to the challenge?

To become Peacemakers for the kingdom of God?

Coach Shug Jordan at Auburn University asked his former Linebacker Mike

Kollin, who was then playing for the Miami Dolphins,

if he would help his alma mater do some recruiting.

Mike said, "Sure, coach. What kind of player are you looking for?"

The coach said, "Well Mike, you know there's that fellow, you knock him down, he just stays down?" Mike said, "We don't want him, do we, coach?"

"No, that's right. Then there's that fellow, you knock him down and he gets up, you knock him down again and he stays down." Mike said, "We don't want him either do we coach?"

Coach said, "No, but Mike, there's a fellow, you knock him down, he gets up. Knock him

down, he gets up. Knock him down, he gets up. Knock him down, he gets up."
Mike said, "That's the guy we want isn't it, coach?"
The coach answered, "No, Mike, we don't want him either.
I want you to find the guy who's knocking everybody else down.
That's the guy we want."

That's the kind of person God wants as well.
Someone who can go out there and knock down
the walls of hostility,
the barriers in a broken marriage
and channel thru the darkness in a heart of despair
To bring all people into a living relationship with a Holy God.
The Prince of Peace.
**BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE
CHILDREN OF GOD.**
Will you join me as a peacemaker????