



Week 8 – Happy are the Peacemakers

Series Passage: Matthew 5:1-12

Focus for the Week: Matthew 5:9, Acts 6:1-7

Discussion Guide:

Jesus continues his list of character attributes that make for a happy life when he tells us, “Happy are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

Q: When you hear the word peacemaker what did you picture?

In our society peacemakers is not a common term instead we often use the term peacekeeper. We often hear this term in association with military operations where Canadian soldiers are sent on peace keeping deployments.

Q: What is the difference between a peacekeeper and a peacemaker?

Q: Has there ever been a time in your life when you experienced someone “making” peace with you? How did this, or would this, feel different then someone “keeping” peace with you?

To help us understand what peacemaking looks like we are going to take a look at some of the actions of the early church following Jesus’ ascension into heaven.

For context, the early church has been growing consistently and the disciple’s ministry has been blessed with this growth, but they also have faced persecution throughout. With the growth they

were experiencing there also was some internal issues that rose. This is where our text picks up at.

Read: Acts 6:1-7

Q: What was causing friction in the early church in this chapter?

Q: What tension did the disciples have with this issue?

Q: What does the disciple's response to both the outward and internal issue teach us about being peacemakers?

A peacemaker is defined as, "One who seeks to end strife and establish harmony, particularly between oneself and one's neighbours."

Q: Reflecting on this definition, and the story in Acts, what then is the difference between peacekeepers and peacemakers?

Q: How can we in our lives be peacemakers?

Finishing Well

Peacemaking is not something that we can passively accomplish, we cannot be a bystander and be a peacemaker. Peacemaking requires effort. It requires that we go to God with our issues, for to have peace we have to go to the king of peace, and then act on what God is telling us to do. This won't always be easy. However, it is necessary for happiness.

Thankfully, we are not alone in this endeavor. Jesus' entire life was a peacemaking deployment. He didn't come to maintain the status quo but through his teachings, parables, healings, and ultimately through his death on the cross Jesus showed us what it takes to make true everlasting peace. We are blessed to serve a God who has shown us his ways through his son Jesus Christ.

Close in Prayer