

## Matthew 5:9 The 'Be' Attitudes "Blessed Are the Peacemakers"

### Psalm 100:5

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

---

### Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Matthew, chapter 5, verse 9.

Today, we return to our study in the Sermon on the Mount with the 7<sup>th</sup> BE-Attitude as shared by our Lord Jesus. Today we are going to look at the Be-Attitude found in verse 9. And with all of the beatitudes, they are very succinct and simple...but...oh are they deep. Look at it...

### Matthew 5:9

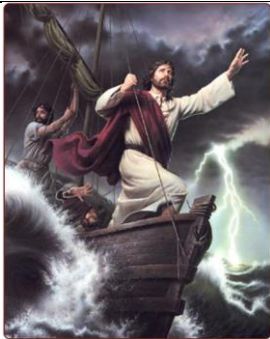
9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

---

As we begin to look at what it means to be a peacemaker, I want you to think back with me all the way to the beginning of mankind. God created Adam and then made Eve from a bone from his side and placed them in perfect tranquility and PEACE in the Garden of Eden. All was at peace. But, then came the Fall of man and sin entered the world and that peace was interrupted.

What was that peace that was interrupted? PEACE WITH GOD. And because peace with God was interrupted, there was now no peace in and among mankind...God's creation and before you know it Cain has killed his brother Abel out of jealousy. Therefore, peace between men and peace between man and God was interrupted. God's answer to this problem? His Son...

---



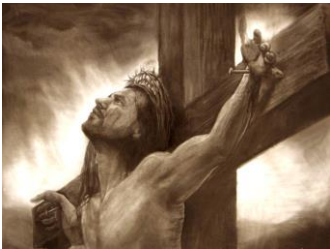
Jesus...the Son of God...sent to the world to bring peace... Remember what the angels said when He came into the world? **"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people...."** They would say, **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."** Isaiah's prophecy came true...

### Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

---

And that **Prince of Peace**, could only bring peace **back to this world** with His death on a cross.



And so Jesus came and died on the cross to bring peace to the human heart...to make right what was lost in the Garden. And some day Jesus will return and establish a kingdom of peace...and we will live in a new heaven and new earth in never-ending peace.

So really, if you think about it...the story of God and His love for us is the story of peace, peace forfeited/lost, peace regained because of Christ...and eternal peace enjoyed with God forever and ever.

---

But, here we are... October 25, 2015 and the truth is...there is very little peace on this earth. Think about the world. Think about this country. Think about our schools, churches and homes...there is so LITTLE PEACE.

We don't have peace politically. We don't have peace socially. We don't have peace economically. We don't have peace maritally. We don't have peace among nations. We don't have peace in cities and communities. We don't have peace in homes. And we don't have peace in our hearts.

---

Oh, but we try to have peace politically and socially. We even give awards to those who try and make peace... We call them Nobel PEACE prize winners. We try to broker peace by sending diplomats throughout the world...



We send emissaries and Secretary's of State and ambassadors trying to broker peace in the Middle East. Peace in Iran. Peace in Russia and China. But, diplomats can't bring peace...not true peace...because...

- Peace doesn't come through a piece of paper signed by diplomats.
  - Peace doesn't come through a judge because he makes a decree in a divorce settlement.
  - Peace doesn't come through the United Nations or even the World Council of Churches.
- 

No! Peace...TRUE PEACE can only come through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, who deals with the heart! And that's the only way to have true peace...true peace can only come to the human heart through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **And that brings us to the Biblical definition of peace.**

The root word in peacemaker is obviously the word: "Peace." The Greek word for peace is:

**PEACE (Greek: Eirēnē):** tranquil state of soul; content; harmony.

I suppose for many people, peace could be defined as the absence of war. Many would define peace as the absence of conflict, strife and animosity. But, that's not a Biblical definition of peace. In Scripture peace is not the absence of something...it's the presence of something. Peace is not the absence of something... it is the presence of Jesus. Biblically, peace is not a "cold war" or a "truce." The world might call that peace, but the Bible doesn't.

---

Think about it in your home... Is this peace?



That looks like a truce...perhaps an uneasy peace at best. And you've seen this kind of false peace in your home. It's a peace that you try to manufacture that's produced by the fact that you just won't talk to one another, because you know if you open your mouth, WWIII is going to break out. So you just keep your mouth shut and you silently go around while smoldering inside. Folks, that's not peace...that's only avoiding the issue.

---

You know how that is in families. It's the white elephant in the room that no one wants to talk about...just so you can keep peace. So, when there are difficult things to be addressed...well...we don't address them and thus we compromise, right? Yeah...that's right...compromise...that's peace isn't it? No...it's not... Why, because if truth is compromised at the expense of peace...then, all you've got is the condoning of what could be sin!

Is there sin in your family and because you are trying to "keep peace" you don't bring it up. You know it's sin...but, you don't want things to blow sky high and so you quote "Blessed are the peacemakers." No...you're not a peacemaker...you're a coward. Peace is NOT sacrificing truth...No...that only dishonors God.

---

You know Jesus never backed away from the truth just so He could compromise with people. Jesus always told the truth... with the Rich Young Ruler (your God is your money), the Woman at the Well (your living with a man that's not your husband), Zacchaeus (you have cheated people)... Jesus told them what they needed to hear. And oh...what about the Pharisees. He didn't compromise truth with them and Jesus certainly didn't look the other way when the moneychangers in the Temple were cheating the people.

---

I love what the Psalmist says:

### **Psalm 85:10**

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Listen, Biblical peace is not keeping your mouth shut and looking the other way because something is uncomfortable. That's not peace. That's evading the issue. Hey Dads...we do this a lot in our homes. We come home from a hard days work and the kids are fighting and we plop down, grab the remote and zone out. Hey Dad, we're not doing our family any favors by not addressing situations that need to be discussed in our homes by hoping they go away, or pretending they don't exist...or by leaving all the discipline to Momma. Being a peacemaker is not walking away from a situation like this...

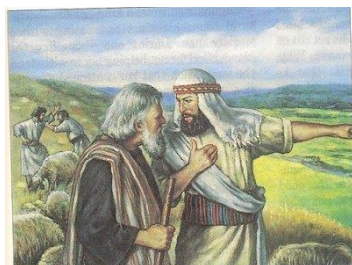


with our fingers in our ears...and ignoring the situation. No! Being a peacemaker means you get into the middle of the situation and you bring truth...because when you bring truth... the by-product of that truth is peace. You see the “Bible kind of peace” is the peace that exists after the struggle has been resolved with truth.

---

Let me show you an example of a Biblical peacemaker. I’m going to show you how Abraham was a peacemaker. **Turn in your Bibles to Genesis 13, verse 8.**

Let me set the scene. Abraham and his nephew, Lot were both very wealthy with lots of livestock and herdsmen.



Abraham and Lot’s herdsmen were getting into arguments about where their flocks might graze because they were running out of pastureland for them all. Therefore, so that a war wouldn’t break out, Abraham said this to Lot.

---

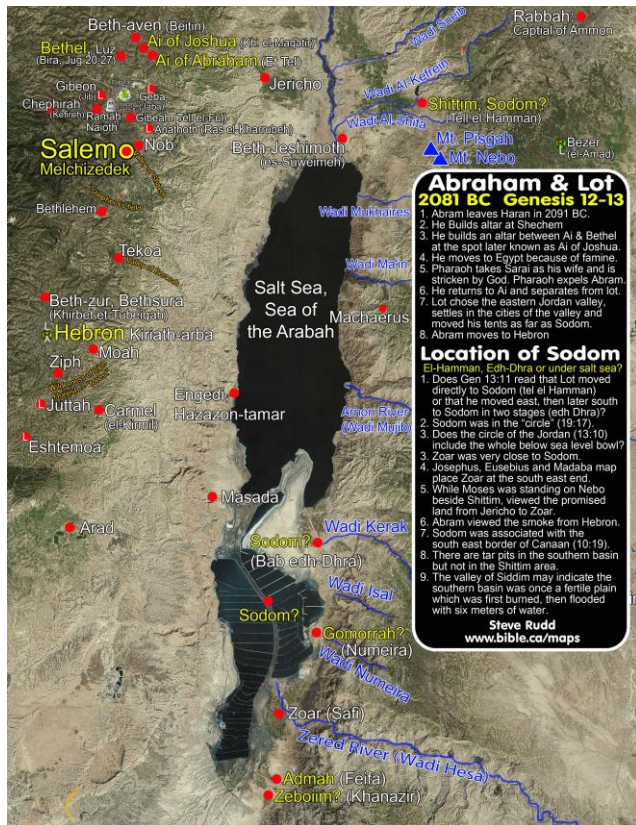
### **Genesis 13:8-12**

**8** Then Abram said to Lot, “Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. **9** Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left.” **10** And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) **11** So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. **12** Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

---

Now understand this...Abraham had all the power because he had the promise of God that all the land was his, yet he chose to be a peacemaker with his nephew, Lot and allow him to choose where he wanted. By the way, who made the best choice? Take a look at the map on the screens.





Lot chose Sodom and you'll see Sodom in the bottom/middle (below the Dead Sea or Salt Sea) with a question mark (?) and that's because we know Sodom along with Gomorrah were destroyed by God because of their sexual sin.

However, God blessed Abraham and I believe even guided in the choice by working out that Abraham chose the land of Canaan to the west of the Dead Sea.

What's the lesson of Abraham and Lot? Simple. If you do the right thing and seek to make peace, God will bless you. Romans 12 says this...

### **Romans 12:16-18**

**16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. **17** Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

### **Romans 14:19**

**19** So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Hear the words of Jesus again...

### **Matthew 5:9**

**9** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

You will be blessed (have a divine happiness) if you choose to be a peacemaker.

You see peacemakers are a rare breed in our day and age. They are extremely hard to find, because we all want our way! We are so selfish and so narcissistic. But, peacemakers are never

that way. They are never defensive, never self-indulgent, never vengeful.

Peacemakers don't make excuses for what they did, instead they take responsibility for doing what is right. Peacemakers are always looking for the truth and they are always looking for ways they can strengthen a relationship. They don't gossip. They don't try to make themselves look better than someone else. They don't talk behind people's backs and they aren't fakes. They are godly, kind and totally committed to making Jesus look good in all situations.

---

Does that describe you? Would you describe yourself as a peacemaker? Would people who know you describe you as a peacemaker? If not, why not? What excuse might you offer? Would you say, "Well, that's just not my personality?"

Well, can I ask you WHY do you offer that excuse? So, let's say that you are high-strung... Does that give you the right to be mean or short-tempered or hateful? Do you remember that one of the fruits of the spirit is PEACE? And do you know that Jesus has left us here on this earth as His children to be His "Peace Corps..." to be the bearers of peace? Let me show you this.

---

**Turn in your Bibles to John 20.** I want to show you where we are called to be Christ's Peace Corp. John, chapter 20...make your way to verse 19.

Now Jesus has just resurrected from the dead. It's late in the afternoon on Easter Sunday and the disciples are thoroughly distraught. They've been told by Mary Magdalene that Jesus is alive, but they are struggling to believe it. To say that there is NO PEACE among them would be an understatement. The one whom they thought was the Messiah had been killed three days earlier and they are absolutely broken and they are absolutely scared to death that they might be next.

---

### **John 20:19-21**

**19** On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." **20** When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

---

Listen, do you see now that we are called by Jesus to go be His bearers of peace!!! That's our job folks!!! That's our job.

But, let me ask you something... Do you remember when Jesus told people that He had not come to bring peace. Do you remember those times? Jesus said over and over that He had not come to bring peace but a sword. Matthew 10:34 records one of those instances...

### **Matthew 10:34**

**34** "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword."

---

Why did Jesus say this? Is He schizophrenic? I thought He was the Prince of Peace? Well, He is...but, it's like we talked about a moment ago about Dads breaking up fights...sometimes you've got to get in the middle of some tough situations before peace can come.

You see in the context of Jesus saying, "I've not come to bring peace, but a sword," He's talking to

Jews who have a decision to make. Will they follow Jesus or stick to Judaism. If they follow Jesus, they WILL most likely be kicked out of their homes. That's why Jesus said in the very next verse in Matthew 10:35.

---

### **Matthew 10:35-39**

**35** For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. **36** And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. **37** Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. **38** And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. **39** Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

---

Yes, Jesus is the Prince of Peace and yes, we have called to be peacemakers, and yet...when we take the truth of the Gospel to a lost and dying world, they are likely to reject us and hate us and split with us...even our own families. **And guess what the next BEATITUDE is?**

---

### **Matthew 5:10**

**10** "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

You see Jesus, the greatest peacemaker of all time was so persecuted that they killed Him because they couldn't stand His message of peace. And the same is true of us and that's why Jesus said:

---

### **John 14:27**

**27** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

### **John 16:33**

**33** I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

---

You see, Jesus is our peace!

### **Ephesians 2:14**

**14** For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

---

And so this brings us back to the beginning. What's the dividing wall of hostility? What separates us from God? SIN! And so, Jesus became our peace by taking our punishment so that we can be reconciled back to God. Oh what a Savior!!

Listen, Jesus is the Prince of Peace and He came into this world to offer NOT a truce...not an unsettled cease-fire...not a piece of paper indicating a negotiated settlement between nations...NO...Jesus gave His life so that He could give us the opportunity to have peace with God.

---

### **Romans 5:1**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

And not only do we have peace with God through Jesus...we can be called sons of God. And this is where we'll end and boy does it end good!

### **Matthew 5:9**

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

---

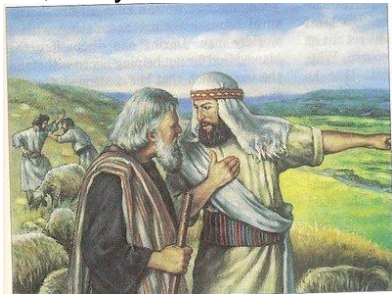
### **"Sons of God."**

In the Greek that phrase is one word. And it's a legal term used for adoption and inheritance laws of the first century. And it means men or women who have the rights, privileges and inheritance of the father.

Listen, to be called "sons of God" means that peacemakers are going to resemble Jesus, because we are joint-heirs of all that the Father has given to Him.

---

So, will you be like Abraham...



...and be a peacemaker and surrender your will...your power...your possessions...your wants...your desires to God, or will we choose to go your own way and end up like Lot...who almost lost it all.

---

Please...please...choose wisely...and understand this one simple fact...you will never know peace in this life...until you know Jesus the Prince of Peace. But, if you choose Jesus, not only do you get peace...you get to be called the sons and daughters of God.

---

It doesn't get any better than that!!