

Love Your Neighbor
The Beatitudes-Blessed are the Peacemakers
First Christian Church—November 19, 2017
Chuck Foreman, Teaching/Missions Pastor

Illusive peace...

GOD's Story— Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9

We cannot be at peace with others unless we are at peace within ourselves.

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18

You can look at this verse from two angles:

(1)

(2)

- Inner, personal peace = Ping An 平安
- Inter-relational peace = He Ping 和平

Jesus is saying, "Blessed are those who work for peace *with* others and *between* others, for they are the ones God will call his children."

The question is—How much do we really do that? How willing are we to do that?

God's Story: Two Alienated Brothers—Jacob & Esau, Genesis 32-33

We see clearly illustrated here, the key ingredients for peace.

- Jacob knew he had done Esau wrong and he intentionally humbled himself before his brother.
- Esau removed all the bitterness toward Jacob from his heart and openly forgave his brother.
 - The bitter heart destroys itself from within and is continually at war with others.
 - The peaceful heart prospers in all its relationships and enjoys being called a child of God.

Jesus was the ultimate Peacemaker:

- Romans 5:1
- Ephesians 2:14-16
- Luke 19:41-42

BIG Idea: Fortunate are you who remove all that is destroying you from your own heart and allow God to replace it with his peace,
for then and only then will you be at peace with others.

Now you can experience the joy of being called a Child of God! ☺

Right On!