

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Blessings for Those Who Work for Peace

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
May 5, 2024



What does it mean to be “peacemakers” and how do we grow in this Kingdom way?

Matthew 5:1-12 (NLT) One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ² and he began to teach them. ³ “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ⁴ God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. ⁶ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. ⁷ God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. ⁹ God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. ¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ¹¹ “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

God's favour rests on us when we...

- **Seek to be peacemakers.**

⁹ “God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.”

“The peacemaker is someone who is reconciled to God, knows God is for peace, and seeks reconciliation instead of strife and war.” Joe Kapolyo. Matthew African Bible Commentary

- **The way of the Kingdom is to turn from retaliation to reconciliation.**

Romans 12:18 (NIV) “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

Psalms 85:10 (NLT) “Unfailing love and truth have met together. Righteousness and peace have kissed!”

Isaiah 9:7 (NIV) “Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

God's favour rests on us when we...

- **Are persecuted for doing what God says is right.**

¹⁰ “God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.”

“The “persecuted” are those who seek God’s will in spite of what others want, who love God so much they are faithful to God when oppressed, and who follow Jesus so unreservedly they suffer for him. Inherent in persecution, then, are both the love of God and denial of self.” Scot McKnight – The Story of the Bible Commentary

God's favour rests on us when we...

- **Are mistreated for imitating Jesus.**

¹¹ “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.”

- **God has reconciled us so we can be reconcilers.**

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 (NIV) “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Big Idea: Become a peacemaker by seeking reconciliation not retaliation.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Blessings for Those Who Work for Peace

#5 of 26 - May 5, 2024

- 1) What has God revealed to you through the **Gospel Reading Challenge** this week? What have you learned or been able to apply?
- 2) What do you think of when you think of the phrase “being peace-makers”.
- 3) Read Matthew 5:1-12. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 4) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions does it raise for you?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?
- 6) What is Jesus saying in verses 9-11 about God’s heart for peace and reconciliation? Why is peace central to the Kingdom of God? How is peace related to righteousness and justice?
- 7) Why do you think Jesus mentions persecution 2X in the Beatitudes? What does this tell you about following Jesus? What blessings are in store for those who experience persecution for following Christ?
- 8) Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. What does this passage tell us about reconciliation and what is the basis for this? What ministry has God given us according to this passage and what are the implications for us?
- 9) **Application:** What resonates with you from this message? In what ways do you need to seek reconciliation with God and others?
- 10) How is God asking you to be a peace-maker today?



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Blessings for Those Who Work for Peace

#5 of 26 - May 5, 2024

- 1) What has God revealed to you through the **Gospel Reading Challenge** this week? What have you learned or been able to apply?
- 2) What do you think of when you think of the phrase “being peace-makers”.
- 3) Read Matthew 5:1-12. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 4) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions does it raise for you?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?
- 6) What is Jesus saying in verses 9-11 about God’s heart for peace and reconciliation? Why is peace central to the Kingdom of God? How is peace related to righteousness and justice?
- 7) Why do you think Jesus mentions persecution 2X in the Beatitudes? What does this tell you about following Jesus? What blessings are in store for those who experience persecution for following Christ?
- 8) Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. What does this passage tell us about reconciliation and what is the basis for this? What ministry has God given us according to this passage and what are the implications for us?
- 9) **Application:** What resonates with you from this message? In what ways do you need to seek reconciliation with God and others?
- 10) How is God asking you to be a peace-maker today?