

THE MISSING PEACE — WEEK 3

World Peace

Main Passage: Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9 (also: Luke 2:14)

SERMON SUMMARY

- At Christmas we celebrate the angels' promise of "peace on earth" (Luke 2:14), yet our world still feels filled with conflict and instability.
- Scripture helps us make sense of this: lasting peace will reign fully when sin is removed and
- Christ returns to judge and renew the world (Isaiah 2:4; Revelation 20–21).
- Until that day, Christians live between Jesus' first and second advents—bringing the peace we have with God into our everyday relationships and places of influence.
- Jesus calls His followers to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9): determined, humble, rooted in God's truth, and gracious—ultimately bringing Christ into our world.

MEMORY VERSE

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." — Matthew 5:9

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Peace on earth is promised—and it's coming. God's Word assures us that Christ will bring perfect, lasting peace when He returns.
2. The root problem is spiritual. Sin drives jealousy, selfish ambition, and disorder—so lasting peace cannot exist where sin reigns unchecked (James 3:16).
3. Hope is anchored in God's future. Judgment and renewal are not wishful thinking; they are God's plan to remove sin and establish righteousness.
4. Peacemaking is a calling, not a personality trait. "Blessed are the peacemakers" means we intentionally pursue peace in our homes, workplaces, and community.
5. Peace with God leads us to make peace like God. We pursue reconciliation with determination, humility, truth, and grace—pointing people toward Christ.

DISCUSS

1. **Observe the Text** (Read Isaiah 2:1–5 and Matthew 5:1–12)

- In Isaiah 2:4, what images describe the end of war and the beginning of peace? What changes in human behavior are highlighted?
- What does Isaiah say happens before swords become plowshares (Isaiah 2:4a)? Why is that important for understanding peace on earth?
- In Matthew 5:9, what promise is attached to peacemaking? What does it reveal about God's heart for His children?
- How does the sermon connect the lack of peace in our world to the presence of sin (Genesis 3; James 3:16)?
- What does "peace will reign when sin is gone" mean in your own words? How does that shape expectations for this present age?
- Which of the four qualities of a peacemaker (determined, humble, rooted, gracious) do you see most clearly in Jesus—and why?

2. Interpret

- Why is it comforting (and also sobering) that Isaiah's vision begins with God judging and settling disputes?
- How does the promise of Jesus' second advent (His return) give hope without making us passive about the world's pain right now?
- What's the difference between "keeping the peace" (avoiding conflict) and "making peace" (pursuing reconciliation in truth and love)?

3. Reflect Personally

- Where in your world (home, work, school, neighborhood, friendships) is peace currently missing?
- Is there a relationship where you need to take the initiative toward peace? What's one simple first step you can take this week?
- Which peacemaker quality is hardest for you right now: determination, humility, rootedness in truth, or grace? Why?
- Is there any area where "being right" matters more to you than being reconciled? What would humility look like there?

4. Apply & Practice

- Take initiative: send the text, make the call, extend the invitation, or ask to meet.
- Listen humbly: seek to understand before you try to be understood.
- Stay rooted: don't trade truth for temporary calm—ask God for wisdom and timing to speak and act rightly.
- Show grace: respond with gentleness; give what isn't deserved (forgiveness, patience, kindness).
- Bring Christ: pray for opportunities to point people to the gospel—the only lasting source of peace.

GOING DEEPER

- Luke 2:8–14 (the angels' announcement of peace)
- Romans 5:1 (peace with God through Jesus Christ)
- James 3:13–18 (wisdom, sin, and disorder vs. peace)
- 2 Corinthians 5:18–20 (ministry of reconciliation)
- Revelation 20:11–21:5 (judgment and the new heavens/new earth)
- Isaiah 2:1–5 (full context of Isaiah's vision)

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for the promise of peace through Christ. Help me live with hope as I wait for Jesus' return, and make me a peacemaker in my world—determined to pursue reconciliation, humble enough to listen, rooted in Your truth, and gracious in my words and actions. Use me to bring the peace of the gospel to the people around me. In Jesus' name, amen.