

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Episode CT060 • Matthew 5:9–12 (CSB) • Thursday, April 24, 2026

EPIISODE SUMMARY

In this episode we close out the Beatitudes with Jesus' final four declarations — peacemakers, the persecuted, and the reviled. We explore the crucial difference between a peacemaker and a peacekeeper: one avoids conflict, the other steps into it with a goal of genuine reconciliation. Then Jesus pivots to the cost of righteous living — persecution is not a sign you've failed, it's a sign you're being faithful. We close with Jesus' stunning command to rejoice and be glad under pressure, and we pull back to see the Beatitudes as a whole portrait of kingdom character.

KEY THEMES

- Peacemakers vs. peacekeepers — active reconciliation vs. conflict avoidance
- True peace is grounded in righteousness, not compromise
- Persecution as the expected result of faithful righteous living
- The kingdom's ledger vs. the world's ledger
- The Beatitudes as descriptions of kingdom character, not conditions for earning it

KEY SCRIPTURE

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven."

— Matthew 5:9–12 (CSB)

TAKEAWAY TRUTH

Kingdom character is not what earns you a place with God — it's what God produces in people who belong to him. The promise running through all eight Beatitudes is the same: the kingdom is *yours*. Present tense. Because Jesus has already made the way in.

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Where in your life are you keeping the peace rather than making it? Is there a relationship, a conversation, or a situation you've been avoiding because the cost feels too high? A peacemaker steps in — not to win, but to heal. And if your faithfulness to Jesus has cost you something recently — socially, professionally, relationally — don't be discouraged. Jesus saw it coming. And he says: be glad. Your reward is not on this side of eternity.

SERIES FOCUS

This episode closes Week One of our three-week walk through Matthew 5. We've now covered all eight Beatitudes across CT058–CT060. Next week we move into the second half of Matthew 5: salt and light (CT062), the fulfillment of the Law (CT063), and the Antitheses (CT064). Friday's Lord's Supper meditation (CT061) steps outside Matthew 5 for a reflection on 2 Corinthians 5:17–20 — Jesus Makes Us New.