

Blessed - Sermon 8 - Peace and War

Matthew 5:9-12

TEXT: Matthew 5:9–12 (ESV)

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” ¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1. What is a Peacemaker?

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

A peacemaker is one who has found peace with God through Christ and seeks to bring others into that same peace.

- a. We are born in the midst of a war -
- b. A Marvelous Peace has been offered -
- c. Once we’ve experienced this peace we become ambassadors of peace -
- d. As we proclaim the offer of peace, we resemble Jesus -

2. Why does it always bring persecution?

2 Corinthians 2:15–16 (ESV)

¹⁵ For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.

3. Why should we rejoice when Persecuted?

1 Peter 3:14–17 (ESV)

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled. ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

Rejoicing in Persecution Signals:

- a. You realize the brevity of life compared to eternity

b. You rest in the ultimate victory of Christ.

c. You reside among the great Christians of the past

d. Your reward is great