

THE BEATITUDES

MATTHEW 5:9



OPENING

- Ask the group members what “peace” means to each of them, or what they think of when someone says the word.

SERMON REVIEW

- If this series has frustrated you, remember that these Beatitudes are not attainable nor sustainable without Christ.
- When life is overwhelming, we often look for someone to intervene. We need someone to help us make peace, or to bring peace to our situation.
- Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”
- Peacemakers reconcile.
- Nobody *really* likes a peacemaker. Making peace, ironically, makes people upset.
- Peacemaking is rooted in the grace that we received from God.
- It’s a true indication of sonship and right relationship with God. It’s a natural result of a surrendered life.
- To be peacemakers, we must have peace ourselves.
- Peacemakers bring peace with them, purposefully and consistently.
- Peacemakers continually fight for peace and unity in the Kingdom.
- It’s up to me! It’s up to you! The responsibility of achieving peace falls on each of us.
- We’ll be called children of God as we reflect the character of our Father.

DISCUSSION

- What’s the difference between “peace” and “truce”? Why does Jesus describe his Kingdom using the former word rather than the latter?
- If peacemaking is a mark of our sonship to the Father, then peacemaking must be characteristic of the Father himself. How has he made peace?
- What role do we play in the peacemaking mission of God?
- Why is a person who doesn’t know God unable to make real, lasting peace?
- Should peacemaking ever take precedence over truth-telling? That is to say, should we restrain or dilute the truth for the sake of another’s comfort? Why or why not?
- Read Matthew 10:34-36. If the message of Christ divides humanity, in what sense are his disciples to be peacemakers? Between whom are we making peace, and why?
- Paul wrote in Romans 12:18, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Explain this in light of Matthew 5:9 and Matthew 10:34-36.

CHALLENGE

- Identify an area of chaos or strife in your life, and strive for peace therein. It could be a disagreement with another believer, anxiety that you need to surrender, sin that's disturbing or hindering peace, etc.

PLAN AHEAD

- Begin to reflect on this series, identifying patterns or themes through which God has been speaking to your group. Be aware of those things as you facilitate discussion in the remaining weeks.