

The Target: Lesson 4

Sunday, August 2, 2026
6:10 PM

Singles Class — Week 4

Aiming at the Target, Part 4 (Final): Shalom, Y'all

Teaching Outline

SLIDE



This closes out the four classes on "the Target." Next week moves to the Bow, and the final week to the Archer.

We are going to begin tonight talking about *Shalom*. There is a sign seen in the Armenian Quarter in Jerusalem carries the traditional greeting "*Ma Shlomkha*" — literally "*how is your peace?*" This is not small talk—but a real question about the state of your relationship with God and with everyone around you. Imagine every single greeting you exchange today was actually asking, "how are you doing with God?" There may be no more important question in the world.

Shalom and being in right order with God and man was the topic from your homework— Colt .45 Peacemaker. Shalom is God's heart and desire to establish right order — between Him and us, and between each other. This is the true nature of the Gospel.

The goal of these classes are to grow in revelation & insight.

Getting your own life into right shalom with God is what positions you to be used by Him to crush the enemy — not just for your own comfort. Being in right shalom is going to require you to be a peacemaker not just a peacekeeper.

Illustration: a classic Western scene featuring a Colt 45 Peacemaker — a revolutionary, feared weapon. Strange to think of a "peacemaker" as a weapon of war, but its mere presence on someone's hip kept peace without a shot ever being fired.

Someone who is merely keeping peace is just delaying the warfare.

We will say this several times throughout this lesson: Peacemaking is actively seeking God's right order, not assuming you already know what it is.



- **Matthew 5:9 (ESV)**

⁹ **"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."**

You're called to be a peacemaker, not a peacekeeper — and it's the peacemakers who are said to be sons of God. Let's take a minute to discuss [What Peacekeeping Looks Like](#).

- Letting a conflict or hard conversation slide because you're afraid of how someone will react, afraid they won't like you, or telling yourself "it probably won't do any good anyway."

Peacekeeping isn't actual peace — you can be sitting quietly next to someone with total turmoil underneath. Peace is not merely an absence of visible hostility. A telltale sign you have not made peace when you keep bringing up old hurts — "well, they always do this," or "they never consider my feelings." That's a sign you kept the peace instead of making it. The pattern of peacekeeping starts when compromises are present in the forming of a relationship — presenting a polished, partly false version of yourself so someone will like you may take years or decades to undo. What you hide now, you'll likely still be hiding after the wedding.

Unaddressed peacekeeping doesn't stay dormant — it surfaces eventually, usually as a wildly disproportionate reaction to something small, or as complete withdrawal.

The solution is of course—the Word of God. The Word is an offensive weapon.

-Hebrews 4, Ephesians 6 show that the word of God is the sword of the Spirit, sharper than any double-edged sword, dividing soul and spirit. Like the Colt 45, its very presence brings peace — it doesn't need to be aimed directly at you to expose what needs to die in you.

- **Romans 5:8 (ESV)**

⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Christ didn't wait for us to get it together before making peace — He acted first, on God's behalf. Peacemakers act the same way: **focused on pleasing the Lord, not on managing their own risk.**

Psalm 34:14 — Turn, Do, Seek, Pursue

- **Psalm 34:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ Turn away from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

Four action words, in a fixed order — you can't skip ahead to "pursue" without first turning from evil.

(DO NOT READ)

Mapped to the Tabernacle

1. **Turn (from evil)** — you need to recognize what in you needs to die.
2. **Do (good)** — You must take action to do the good that God has for you to do!

3. **Seek (peace)** — Actively seeking God's right order, not assuming you already know what it is.
4. **Pursue (it)** — To chase down and overtake, like a predator, until shalom is actually obtained — not just intended.

Peace can never be obtained through inaction. "We'll just sleep on it and move on" doesn't produce shalom — it only changes how you feel about the problem, not whether it's actually resolved. Peace comes from taking action, and never comes from failing to act.

Feeding the Spirit — or Not

You are spirit, soul, and flesh. The soul is the battleground, following whichever of the other two is stronger. Daily time in the Word feeds and strengthens the spirit so it can lead the soul.

Miss the Word for a few mornings in a row, and the drift isn't dramatic sin right away — it's a slow slide into what one student called "delusional": forgetting instruction, everything you touch starting to fall apart, thinking you can manage in your own strength.

Illustration: good meat left in a hot car for two days doesn't need any help to rot — that's entropy. The world constantly tries to escape shalom through passivity: "let's just all get along," "don't judge," "do nothing and we'll be fine." Doing nothing is not neutral — **it's decay.**

Song of Songs warns not to awaken love before its time. This is the reasoning behind courting rather than dating: relationships here are aimed at marriage from the start, with clear boundary lines, because even something as small as hand-holding can awaken love prematurely.

This is what you should do:

- **Psalm 119:11 (NIV)**
¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.

Leviticus 26:6–8 — Peace Is Promised, But You Fight For It

The Target – Shalom Ya'll

Leviticus 26:6

Peace Is:

- NOT Passivity or the cessation of hostilities
- Fighting the battles that are the Lord's
- Being in obedient harmony
- Free from idolatry

"Peace comes from taking action and never comes through failing to act"

○ **Leviticus 26:6–8 (ESV)**

⁶I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. And I will remove harmful beasts from the land, and the sword shall not go through your land. ⁷You shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. ⁸Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall chase ten thousand, and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

God promises peace, yet the very next verses describe pursuing and fighting. The promised land was given, but Israel still had to fight for it, generation after generation.

The ratio (five chase a hundred, a hundred chase ten thousand) reveals that your enemies — fear, self-protection, the urge to flatter yourself to be liked — are always more numerous than you expect. Don't be surprised every time a relationship hits friction; expect it, and fight for shalom anyway.

Key application: whatever state you're in now — in shalom or out of it — you will carry into your marriage, and it will multiply. A fear of being alone doesn't vanish at the altar; it just finds a new target. What is in right order also multiplies, becoming that much more fruitful for the Kingdom.



Romans 12:1–2 — No Neutral Ground

◦ Romans 12:1–2 (ESV)

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

A living sacrifice is ongoing, not one-and-done — and it will resist. **Failing to put the flesh to death immediately impairs your discernment;** you won't be able to rightly judge God's will if you're unwilling to hear the last thing He already told you to do.

Illustration: **trying to stand still on a downward escalator — the moment you stop actively resisting, you're moving backward.** There is no neutral: you are either advancing the kingdom or being conformed to the world's pattern.

◦ Luke 16:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ **"The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it.**

The Kingdom is forced into, not drifted into. The hardest enemies to fight usually aren't the ones outside you — they're the ones inside.

Matthew 10:11–13 — Shalom Is the Prerequisite for Ministry



○ **Matthew 10:11–13 (ESV)**

¹¹ And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

Ministry cannot flow from a home — or a relationship — that is out of shalom. This is why courting relationships are pursued only when both people are actually pursuing God's right order together. Two purposes of marriage that cannot be fulfilled without shalom: producing godly offspring, and functioning as true helpmates operating in one calling.

Reframe your friendships: what if the best friends weren't the ones you fought with least, but the ones you made the most shalom with — the ones who actually helped shape you, not just the ones who already agree with you?

1 Samuel 15:23 — Anti-Shalom

- **1 Samuel 15:23 (ESV)**

²³ For **rebellion is as the sin of divination,**
and **presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.**
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
he has also rejected you from being king.”

Saul obeyed God about 90% of the way and improvised the rest — and that partial obedience was still counted as rejecting the word of the Lord. **Arrogance and rebellion are correlated to witchcraft and idolatry!** Even though Saul was doing sacrifice to the Lord, he failed fight the Lord's battles.

Shalom is not just about avoiding marrying the wrong person, you could be with the right person and STILL act sinfully with them and break shalom!

The Talit — A Living Illustration of Covering



- Jesus' obedience puts us in right order with God
- Our obedience keeps us under His protective umbrella (Tallit)
- Trouble and Fear are enemies of Shalom because they don't trust and show confidence in God
- He has given you Peace, You must maintain it

"Peace comes from taking action and never comes through failing to act"

A Jewish man's prayer shawl (talit) has four corners (knafot), each with a tasseled cluster of knots (tzitzit) representing all 613 commandments — a daily, physical reminder of his relationship with God, which then governs his relationships with others.

At a Jewish wedding, the groom brings his bride under this same talit — into the covering of his relationship with God's commands and order.

Live demonstration: even after the couple is joined under the covering, outside forces continue pulling on them from every direction. There is no neutral position once you're in covenant — shalom must be actively, continually maintained, never just achieved once and left alone.

[1 Corinthians 11:1–3 — The Order of Shalom](#)



- **1 Corinthians 11:1–3 (ESV)**

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

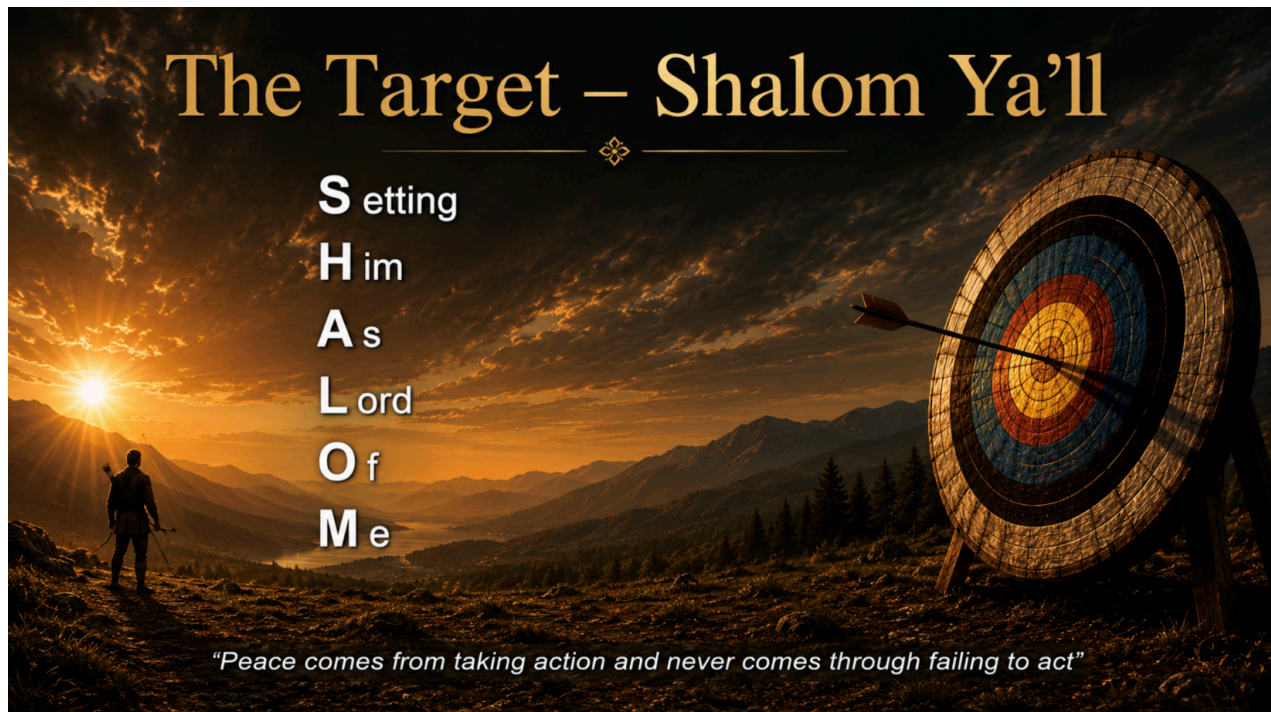
² Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. ³ But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

A clear chain: God → Christ → man → woman (and, by extension, parent → child → even a family pet). Most links in that chain are uncontroversial because the disparity in ability is obvious.

The friction point is specifically man and woman — not because of unequal value, but because their abilities are so close, combined with the presence of sin. Order (authority) is not the same thing as worth. The more this order is honored, the more a wife is able to walk in trust, honor, and shalom with her husband — which is itself the path to being most fulfilled, not less.

God so loved the right order (cosmos) that He sent His Son — not to rearrange the order, but to deal with the sin that disrupts it. Remove the sin, and shalom operates as it was always designed to.

Closing: SHALOM as an Acronym



Setting Him As Lord Of Me.

Before marriage, the "Him" is Christ — full stop. After marriage, for a wife, the "Him" becomes her husband (under Christ); for a husband, it remains Christ directly. Shalom is the target. **It's what God has been aiming at the whole time,** and it's what will let a family — and a group of families — set a hundred, and then ten thousand, enemies to flight.

Remember this definition:



Looking Ahead

This concludes the four sessions on the Target. Next week: the Bow — the process that propels you toward it. After that, the final session: the Archer.

[He Aint Bluffin' Scene | TOMBSTONE \(1993\) Movie CLIP HD](#)



2:28-3:28

Aggressive peacekeeping — actually bring yourself or others into right order with God.

Recall purposes/ Mezzuzah that were stated in lesson 1/ homework from lesson 3