

Beatitudes

Part 5.

Blessed are the Peacemakers

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Text: Matt 5:1-12 (ESV)

Matt 5:1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

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.

Traits of Happy Kingdom Citizens

1. Poor in Spirit
2. Mourn
3. Meek
 - *Jesus skips the expected accolades of Jewish thinking and went straight to the heart of man. Inner attitudes.*
4. Hunger and Thirst for [God's] righteousness
 - *Beatitudes 1-3 lead up to #4 where the spiritually hungry are fed.*
 - *Beatitudes 5-7 flow out of #4. Being filled, new traits begin to emerge. Traits that begin to reach out to others and make kingdom impact.*
5. Merciful
6. Pure in heart
7. Peacemakers
8. Enduring persecution

Good Root → Good Fruit (Matt 7:17, 12:33)

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Peace Introduction

- ~400 references to peace in the bible
- The bible champions the idea of peace start to finish
- Opens with peace in the Garden of Eden
- Jesus came and now offers peace with God
- Closes with eternal life and peace

Rev 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

What Happened to Eden's Peace?

- Spiritual realm: Peace was broken when angels rebelled against God and fell from heaven

Luke 10:18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

- Physical realm: Peace was interrupted when man rebelled against God

Gen 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

Gen 3:23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

Gen 4:8 ...Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

- Satan declared war on God
- Man declared war on God (not the other way around)
- There is no peace because Satan and man are at war with God.
- Major conflicts exist because of sin.

Long History of War

- Estimated 10,624 battles in the past 4500 years (<https://vividmaps.com/4500-years-of-battles-in-5-minutes/>)
- Longest war 774 years – Shortest 38 minutes (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_conflicts_by_duration)



Man's attempt to bring peace

- After one of the deadliest wars, WWII, United Nations formed in 1945 as an agency of world peace. The first item of the UN preamble reads:
WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED
 - *to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, **
- How that's working out?
- "Since 1946, there have been no conflicts on the same scale as World War II but major conflicts have continued. Data collected by the Uppsala University in Sweden identifies 285 distinct armed conflicts having taken place since 1946."**
- President Richard Nixon speech Aug 15, 1971 *"America today has the best opportunity in this century to achieve two of its greatest ideals: to bring about a full generation of peace, and to create a new prosperity without war."*
- *Assume a generation is 30 years: 1970-2000 U.S. involved in 24 conflicts. ****
- *Man's attempts to make diplomatic peace have historically failed miserably*
- *"Peace" is merely that brief glorious moment in history when everyone stops to reload"*

*<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/preamble>

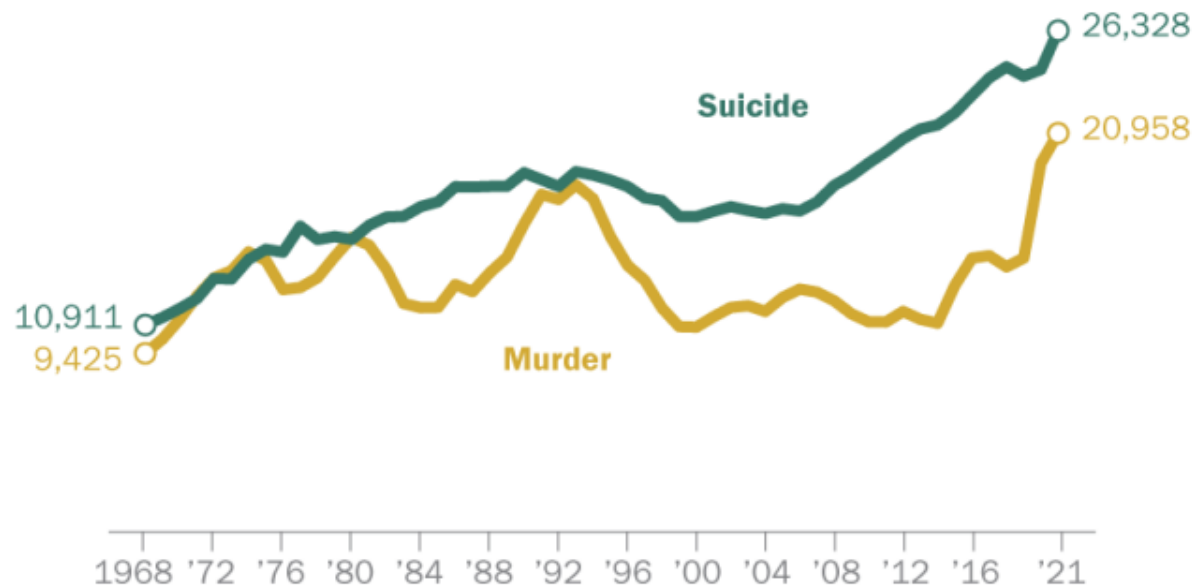
**<https://www.infoplease.com/history/us/major-military-operations-since-world-war-ii>, updated July 2023 8

***https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars...

Not to Mention U.S. Gun Violence

U.S. saw record numbers of gun suicides and gun murders in 2021

Gun suicides and gun murders in U.S.



Note: Gun murders and suicides between 1968 and 1978 are classified by the CDC as involving firearms and explosives; those between 1979 and 2021 include firearms only.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Source: https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/04/26/what-the-data-says-about-gun-deaths-in-the-u-s/ft_23-04-20_gundeathsupdte_2/

What is Biblical Peace?

- H7965 shalom: From H7999; *safe*, that is, (figuratively) *well, happy, friendly*; also (abstractly) *welfare*, that is, health, prosperity
 - H7999 shalam: A verb meaning to be safe, to be completed.
- G1515 Eirene: Probably from a primary verb eiro (to *join*); *peace* (literally or figuratively); by implication *prosperity*: - one, peace, quietness, rest, set at one again
- Summary: wholeness, completeness, oneness, health, prosperity
- General biblical usage (not comprehensive)
 1. Characteristic of God
 2. Absence of war or chaos among people or nations
 3. Right relationship with God
 4. Good relationship among people
 5. Wholeness, health, well being (Est 10:3)
 6. A state of rest, tranquility or serenity (Psa 4:8)
 7. Used as a greeting ("Peace be with you")

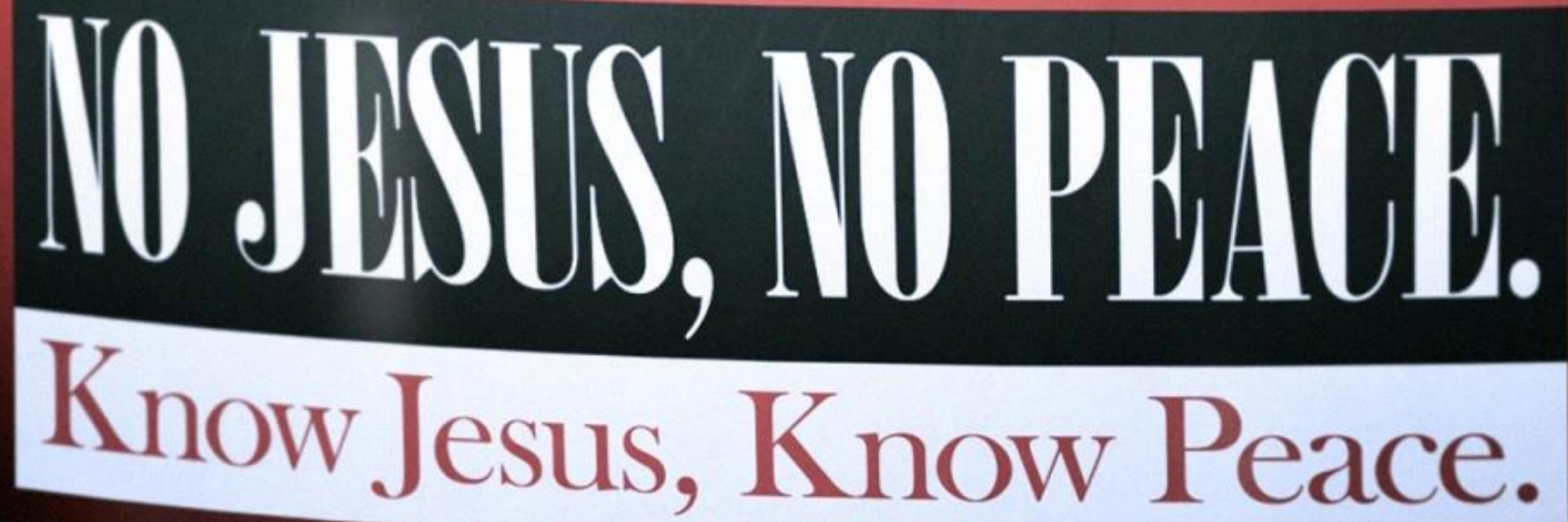
How Do I Get God's Peace?

- Jesus called the Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6)
- Jesus called the Lord of peace (2 Thess 3:16)

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

- When Jesus gave the Holy Spirit, he gave His peace
- Peace is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22)
- Good news called “the gospel of peace.” (Eph 6:15)
- The good news is that man can have peace with God and not war.

Col 1:19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.



NO JESUS, NO PEACE.
Know Jesus, Know Peace.

There's only ONE way to have true Peace!

Peace Rules

Col 3:12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

- Vs. 12-14 Ultimate grace package! Identity (12), graces (12-13), love (14)

¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

- Peace of Christ is the wrapper of the Christian graces. Does not stand alone.

Psalms 85:10 Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

- Col 3:15 Peace is a ruler in the heart (lit. umpire)
- Do you lack God's peace inside? Submit to the rule of Christ and his peace.
- Peace is when we stop fighting with Jesus, surrender, make Him LORD! (master, ruler, king, sovereign, etc.) 384 Lead me to Calvary

Peace

Isa 26:1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks. 2 Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. 3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. 4 Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

- Perfect peace! Stay your mind and trust on God.

1 Pet 3:10 For "HE WHO WOULD LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, LET HIM REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL, AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. 11 LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. (Quote from Psalm 34:14)

- Before we can make peace, we must seek peace

Text: Blessed are the Peacemakers

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

- Don't want to assume we know what Jesus is saying and gloss over
- Who is the audience? Kingdom citizens in whose hearts the peace of Christ rules. We can't make that which we don't possess.
- What is a Peacemaker? G1518 eirenopoios: noun from eirēnopoieō (G1517), to make peace. Peacemaker.
- "The one who, having received the peace of God in his own heart, brings peace to others. He is not simply one who makes peace between two parties, but one who spreads the good news of the peace of God which he has experienced."
- In this beatitude, Jesus both:
 - Acknowledges the blessing of being a peacemaker
 - Calls Christians to be peacemakers
- We are the world's agents of peace. That's a high calling!

How?

1. Having made peace with God ourselves, we are qualified to be peacemakers
2. Make peace with others
 - **Rom 12:18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
 - Don't dig at old wounds. Find common ground and build on it. Love.
 - **Prov 10:12** Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.
 - **1 Pet 4:8** Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.
3. Help others make peace with God
 - Love others enough to tell them the truth. Like Peter Acts 2. Starts with common ground (Joel), then urgency 36 "...this Jesus whom you crucified."
 - "We are the true peacemakers because we preach the gospel of peace about the God of peace who sent the Prince of peace and who, through His Spirit, grants peace to repentant sinners."
4. Help people make peace with each other
 - **1 Cor 6:5** ...Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers...

Peace at any Cost?

- Do we make peace at any cost or compromise?

Consider John's second letter

2 John 1:1 The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, ² because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: ³ Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.

- Peace does not compromise truth; operates in love

1 Pet 5:14 Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ. (notice the qualifier)

- The most loving and peaceful thing believers can communicate to unbelievers..."stop fighting God and be reconciled to Him".

Sowing Seeds as Peacemakers

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Vs. 15-16 describes chaos and sin. No peace!

Vs. 17 describes wisdom from above

Vs. 18 peacemakers are actually sowing seeds of righteousness!

Summary

- As a result of hungering for righteousness, God fills us with His peace
 - Stop fighting and warring with God, surrender and make him Lord of our hearts!
- Jesus calls all Christians to be peacemakers
- Having received and experienced God's peace firsthand, Christians:
 - Make peace in their own relationships
 - Make peace by spreading the good news of the peace of God
 - Make peace between others as an arbitrator
- Being called the sons of God is perhaps the greatest title

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

