

A Heart Because of the Lord, Part 2

Matthew 5:9-10

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1. “Blessed” in the context of the sermon on the mount, refers to someone praiseworthy and in a fortunate position.
2. The first four Beatitudes deal with our internal relationship with God and the last four deal with our external relationships.
3. To those in the crowds, hearing Jesus say “blessed are the peacemakers” would have been a surprise since they were expecting the Messiah to be a military leader.
4. “Peacemaker” is closely tied to the concept of shālôm. It conveys a sense of well-being, wholeness, fullness of life, abundance, and right relationships that result in harmony.
5. Living out the first four beatitudes prepares us for the next four. For example, Moses’ gentleness and meekness allowed God to use him as a peacemaker.
6. We cannot be peacemakers if we do not have peace. When we are gentle and patiently wait for the Lord, we are in a position to be a peacemaker.
7. We cannot force peace on people: Moses was only able to intercede after Aaron turned back to him. Jesus’ blood only makes peace when we turn back to Him.
8. To be a “son of something” meant you shared its character. Peacemakers will be called “sons of God” because they share His peace through the death of Jesus Christ.
9. The world will harass and persecute us when we live lives that are pleasing to the Lord.
10. We should not complain about or hide from persecution. If we are persecuted for living a godly life, it means we are exactly where we need to be.
11. We are in a fortunate and praiseworthy position when we identify with Jesus.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Eirēnopoios: [peacemaker] a mediator who tries to bring about harmonious relationships (between two opposing parties).

diókō: [to pursue; persecute] - This context would mean to oppress and harass someone.

QUOTES

“Christianity is not merely or even mainly about correcting your bad habits, but about satisfying and fulfilling you in the deepest way possible, and therefore making God look as great as he is.” - Marshall Segal, Killjoys: The Seven Deadly Sins

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe what it means to be "Blessed" to someone?
2. How do you see Jesus being a "peacemaker" in the Gospels?
3. Where do you see hostility in your life and how could you be a peacemaker?
4. What does it mean that we need God's peace before we can be a peacemaker?
5. Have you ever experienced persecution for living a way that was pleasing to God? What did it look like?

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