

Warriors Who Wage Peace-Matthew 5:9

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

When God created man, there was _____ between God and Adam, and Eve. It was the decision of Adam and Eve to disobey God that broke the peace. There are two reasons for lack of peace in the world: the _____ of Satan to God’s plan, and man’s _____ to God. In the Old Testament, the word most often used is _____, which not only means a lack of war, but also a wholeness, prosperity or well-being that pervades a person, usually coming from a relationship of love and loyalty with God and one another. In the New Testament, the Greek word for peace is Irene. It describes a peace which comes from a true _____ between God and man based on the New Covenant in the blood of Jesus shed for us at the cross in payment for our sins. God calls Himself the God of Peace (Jud 6:24, Rom 15:33, Phil 4:9, 1 Cor 14:33, 2 Cor 13:11, and 2 Thes 3:16. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace in Is 9:6.

This section of the beatitudes is about demonstrating our love for Jesus in _____ like demonstrating mercy and maintaining a pure, clean heart for service to Him. As we come back to Jesus for our strength over and over again we are able to walk out these “action” beatitudes.

When we talk about peace, we often think of an _____ of war. There are temporary truces and peace negotiations, but they’re not _____. Peace in the bible is not about concessions or compromises, because the goal isn’t peace between people. Biblical peace is about dissolving the ground of conflict that separates two people, which is always about _____. It’s pride, it’s strife, it’s greed, and _____ that causes conflict and wars, and so biblical peace has to deal with the sin problem first.

In James 3:17, **17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, free of hypocrisy.** So, first purity and righteousness, then peace.

The problem

Since, as we are reminded of in Jeremiah 17:9 **“The heart is more deceitful than all else, and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?”** And Isaiah says in 57:21 **“There is no peace,” Says my God, “for the wicked.”** That leaves the search for peace through any means except righteousness is really an exercise in _____.

For there to be peace, both parties have to _____ peace. You can’t have peace, if only one side is seeking it. Peace with God is something that God has wanted from the _____. We’re the ones who broke the peace, and so if we come to Him on His terms, He will make _____ with us. He has even sacrificed His own son, allowing Him to be murdered at Calvary, so that Christ could achieve victory over sin, and make peace between God and Man _____ for a Righteous and Just God. We just have to reach out our hand and make peace with God by _____ His offer of forgiveness based on a relationship with His son whom He has sent.

For they shall be called Sons of God

Marching Orders

This is an action beatitude, it means that we have marching orders from our Father in Heaven to _____ something here. We have work for the Kingdom to do. 2 Corinthians 5:17-19: **17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their wrongdoings against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**

_____ people to God is what being a peacemaker is all about, and it’s only possible if we _____ have been reconciled to God, in Christ. This wisdom to conduct the business of God that is first pure, then peaceable comes out in our ministries as (James 3:18) **18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.** We sow righteousness in the peace that we have in Jesus if we are those who make peace—peacemakers.

Sometimes you’re actually going to come into _____ because you are a peacemaker. This does not make you less of a peacemaker, but _____-so. **Indeed, all who desire to live godly in**

Christ Jesus will be persecuted as it says in 2 Tim 3:12. And what should be our attitude when this happens? Paul tells us in **10 Therefore I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in distresses, in persecutions, in difficulties, in behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.** It's receiving these kinds of worldly conflicts with delight in the opportunity to serve God that _____ the difference. That's the kind of behavior that has no earthly explanation, and the kind of behavior that will get the attention of a generation that is disillusioned with the broken promises of lasting peace and unity. Or as Jesus will tell us later in the sermon on the Mount in Mathew 5:43-45a 43 **"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'** 44 **But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,** 45 **so that you may prove yourselves to be sons of your Father who is in heaven;**

And so, we see, that it's this ministry of reconciliation, this leading people to Jesus by teaching them the _____ about God through our words and actions, that marks us as true citizens of the kingdom, true _____ of God. And because this takes place as a _____ to people, this verse emphasizes that we "will be called" sons of God—the testimony of Christ that it gives, is _____. People are _____ you, Christian, to see if there is a difference between you and the world. Pursuing this ministry of reconciliation God's way is the quickest way to show that difference.