

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, February 7, 2021

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 23. The Peacemakers – Matthew 5:9

Pastor Phillip M Way

Intro: “There is nothing in the whole range of Scripture which so tests, examines, and humbles us as these Be-attitudes.” – MLJ

- I. Defining Terms – Matt. 5:9
 - A. Blessed – a recipient of divine favor, grace - desire and ability to please God
 - B. Peacemakers – engaged in making peace, promoting reconciliation
 1. Quote 1 from CHS; Quote 2 from JMB; Quote 3 from MLJ
 2. Not a Peace-Keeper – peace at any price, appeasement, avoidance of necessary conflict – Matt. 10:34; Eccl. 3:8; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Prov. 9:8; 17:10; 27:5; 28:23
 - C. Called Sons of God – “owned as God’s children”
 1. God is the God of Peace – Heb. 13:20; Rom. 16:20
 2. This identifies us unmistakably as His, it reveals our sonship because we are so noticeably like God
 - D. Definition: Evidence of our sonship to God is found in the active, intentional pursuit of peace and the things that make for peace between men and others, and between men and God – 2 Cor. 5:18-19; Eph. 6:15
- II. Peace Prevented and Falsified
 - A. Compromise – unity at the expense of truth – Prov. 4:25-27; Luke 9:62 – Quote 4 from MLJ
 - B. Confusion – 1 Cor. 14:33; James 3:17-18; 1 Tim. 2:2; 2 Tim. 2:22
 - C. Covetousness – Jeremiah 6:13-15
 - D. Chastening Refused - Discipline vs. Disobedience – Heb. 12:7, 11, 14-17
- III. The Sources of Peace
 - A. The Savior (Prince of Peace) – Eph. 2:14-17; John 14:27; 16:33; Acts 10:36; Rom. 5:1
 - B. Salt (the gospel) – Mark 9:50
 - C. Be Spiritually Minded – Rom. 8:6
 - D. Bear Spiritual Fruit – Gal. 5:22
 - E. Supplication (prayer) – Phil. 4:6-7
 - F. Submission (obedience) – Phil. 4:9; Col. 3:13-15; Titus 3:1-10 (see also John 3:36)
- IV. The Steps to Becoming a Peacemaker
 - A. Be Peaceable – do not quarrel and fight
 - B. Make Peace – actively pursue peace – Rom. 14:19; Eph. 4:3; 1 Peter 3:11; Rom. 12:18
 - C. Remember, Peace Requires a Pure Heart
 1. A new heart and a new view of self – Matt. 15:19
 2. A new view of the world
 3. One New Concern – the glory of God
 - a. Fighting and division detracts from the glory of God
 - b. Humble yourself in order to exalt God
 - c. Suffer to win peace if necessary - be done with self-interest – it doesn’t matter what happens to me if God is glorified!
 - D. How?
 1. Learn not to speak – James 3:1-8; James 1:19 – don’t say or repeat harmful things
 2. Think – put every situation in the context of the gospel
 3. Look for ways to make and promote peace
 4. Diffuse peace wherever you go – be selfless, lovable, gentle – think nothing of self
 5. Quote 5 from MLJ – the ultimate purpose of being a peacemaker is to reconcile men to God by refusing to be a stumbling block that keeps them from Him!

Quotes:

Quote 1 – “Not passively peaceful, who keeps the peace, but actively peaceful by endeavoring to end wars and contentions and so make peace.” – CHS

Quote 2 – “Only those who have first tasted peace with God at the cross of Christ can become peacemakers. Because they have known God’s peace, they must be peacemakers.” – JMB

Quote 3 – “The mere avoidance of war does not make peace – it does not solve the problem. You can outlaw war, but men are by nature law breakers.” - MLJ

Quote 4 – “There is perhaps no clearer pronouncement of what the Scriptures, and the New Testament gospel especially, have to say about the world, and life in this world, than this. And of course, as I have been trying to point out as we have faced each of these Be-attitudes, each is a very highly theological statement. Now I say that again deliberately, for there is no section of the New Testament that has been so misunderstood and abused as the Sermon on the Mount. You remember how it used to be the habit for certain people to say that they had no interest in theology at all, that they utterly disliked the apostle Paul and regarding it as calamity that he had ever become a Christian with his legalistic notions, who came along and foisted his legalism upon the glorious, delightful and simple gospel of Jesus of Nazareth. They were not interested in the New Testament Epistles at all, but were tremendously interested in the Sermon on the Mount. That was the great need of the world. All that was needed was to take seriously this beautiful idealism thus presented by the Master Teacher of Galilee. All we had to do was study it and try to persuade one another to put it into practice. ‘Not theology’, they said; ‘that has been the curse of the Church – what is needed is this beautiful ethical teaching, this marvelous, moral uplift which is to be found here in the Sermon on the Mount.’ This was their favorite portion of Scripture because they maintained it was so un-theological, so utterly lacking in doctrine and dogma and all such wasteful interest. Let me vary the question. Why are there wars in the world? Why is there this constant international tension? What is the matter with the world? Why is there a threat of further war and all this unhappiness and turmoil and discord among men? According to this Be-attitude, there is only one answer to these questions – sin. Nothing else; it is just sin. So immediately you are back at the doctrine of man the doctrine of sin – theology, in fact. The peacemaker, you see, has become different from what he was; there again is essential theology. The explanation of all our troubles in human lust, greed, selfishness, self-centeredness; it is the cause of all the trouble and discord, whether between individuals, or between groups within a nation, or between nations themselves. So you cannot begin to understand the problem of the modern world unless you accept the New testament doctrine with regard to man and sin.” – MLJ

Quote 5 – “You must now become positive and go out of your way to look for means and methods of making peace. You remember that mighty word, ‘If thine enemy hunger, feed him.’ There is your enemy, who has been saying terrible things about you. Well, you have not answered him, you have controlled your tongue. Not only that, you have said, ‘I can see it is the Devil that is in him and therefore I must not answer him. I must have pity (mercy) on him and pray that God will deliver him and show him himself as a dupe of Satan.’ Good; that is the second step. But you must go beyond that. He is hungry, things have gone wrong for him. Now you begin to seek for ways of relieving him. You are becoming positive and active. It may mean sometimes that you, as we put it foolishly, have to humble yourself and approach the other person. You have to take the initiative in speaking to him, perhaps apologizing to him, trying to be friendly, doing everything you can do to produce peace.”

Cross References

Matthew 10:34

34 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

Ecclesiastes 3:8

8 A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” 17 Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” 18 “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.”

Proverbs 9:8

8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.

Proverbs 17:10

10 Rebuke is more effective for a wise man Than a hundred blows on a fool.

Proverbs 27:5

5 Open rebuke is better Than love carefully concealed.

Proverbs 28:23

23 He who rebukes a man will find more favor afterward Than he who flatters with the tongue.

Hebrews 13:20

20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Romans 16:20

20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Ephesians 6:15

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Proverbs 4:25-27

25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. 26 Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

Luke 9:62

62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

1 Corinthians 14:33

33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

James 3:17-18

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

2 Timothy 2:22

22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Jeremiah 6:13-15

13 “Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely. 14 They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When there is no peace. 15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down,” says the Lord.

Hebrews 12:7, 11, 14-17

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Ephesians 2:14-17

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

John 14:27

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 heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 16:33

33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Acts 10:36

36 The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—

Romans 5:1

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Mark 9:50

50 Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”

Romans 8:6

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Galatians 5:22

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:9

9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Colossians 3:13-15

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Titus 3:1-10

3 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. 3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men. 9 But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. 10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

John 3:36

36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Romans 14:19

19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Ephesians 4:3

3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1 Peter 3:11

11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

Romans 12:18

18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Matthew 15:19

19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

James 3:1-8

3 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. 3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

James 1:19

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

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