

“The Beatitudes (part 4)”

Matthew 5:1-12

Open: Review of last week's lesson.

- Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain Mercy. **vs. 7**
 - Mercy = Not getting what we do deserve.
 - Those who show mercy will be recipients of mercy themselves; but those who forget the mercy shown unto them will find themselves being judged accordingly.
- Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. **vs.8**
 - Pure = Free from impurities; free from guilt; untainted, chaste, or virgin.
 - Purity in life does not come by one's own merit; it requires the blood of Christ, the Word of God, and separation from what God calls impure.

I. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. **vs. 9**

• **Peacemaker = One who would step into conflict to resolve a conflict.**

- **ILL:** *A Negotiator for a Quick Response Force (QRF). It is the job of the QRF's negotiator to make initial contact with those who are causing an unpeaceable situation and to try see what can be done to clear up the issue. The negotiator will not compromise by giving the criminal force what they want in order to bring about a temporary solution. The negotiator will show the offender that there is an easy way or there is a hard way to come to the same conclusion. Frequently, the peacemaker will merely show the offender his authority to use a greater act of force than the criminal has at his disposal.*
- A. **God has equipped His children with the truth** and has sent His children ahead of judgement in order to reconcile the situation before brute force has to be used. (God has sent us ahead, as peacemakers, to stand between the living and the dead to help reconcile the offender to the truth. **Numb. 16:44-48**)
 - **Matt.10:34** “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.” – **This is the Word of God.** (**Heb. 4:12**)
 - It is important that a child of God learn how to use the tools he has been given properly. **II Tim. 2:15** **ILL:** *A police officer who responds incorrectly in a situation is held accountable to the law. A Christian who acts incorrectly just because he is a “Christian” will be held accountable to God*
 - i. We are not the ones who are passing the judgement, nor are we to be the ones who enforce the judgement. These jobs are reserved for God. **Rom. 12:19** “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”
 - ii. We are merely negotiators who are telling individuals what the truth is and what will happen if they do not obey. **Acts. 1:8** “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”
- B. God's children are not to compromise their stand on truth in order to attempt to bring about temporary relief from a conflict.
 - **I Cor. 16:13** “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”
 - **Eph. 6:14** “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”
 - **Rom. 1:16** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ...”

- i. As negotiators (peacemakers) we need to understand that compromising truth to avoid conflict never has, and never will, result in peace. (Those who are the offenders of truth will continue to break the law until they come to the realization that the penalty of breaking the law is greater than the pleasure or reward gained from the offense.)
 - ii. Peace is not an avoidance of conflict. Peace is brought about by standing on truth.
 - a) The best negotiators know how to firmly stand for truth *WHILE* revealing to the offender the compassion behind the stand.
 - b) We do not have to be rude or unkind in order to take a firm stand for right.

Phil. 4:5 *“Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.”*

 - Christians are to be known as balanced individuals.
- C. God merely calls His children to step between an individual and the pending judgment and show them the end results, and to give the violator a chance to reconsider his actions.
- i. Jesus came to earth to show us how He wanted us to care for those He cared about.

Rom. 3:24-26 *“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: [25] Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; [26] To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”*
 - ii. Just as Jesus came to reconcile us to Christ; we, who are the children of God, should live our lives to reconcile the sinner to Christ.

➤ *It is important to recognize who God calls “His children”. It is Those who are standing on truth as they stand for truth while trying to reconcile those in error to the truth.*

II. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. vs. 10-12

- **Those who live their lives as peacemakers will find themselves in the midst of persecution.**

II Tim. 3:12 *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”*

 - Just as a soldier is not shocked when he finds himself in battle, a child of God is not to be caught off guard by the response of the world to their lifestyle.
- A. **The Bible does not tell us we will enjoy the persecution; but it does tell us how to respond.**
- i. **Trust** – **Ps. 7:1** *“O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:”*
 - ii. **Prayer** – **Ps. 109:3-4** *“They compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause. [4] For my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer.”*
 - iii. **Endure** – **II Cor. 4:9&16** *“[9] Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; [16] For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”*

- iv. **Continue being the Christian God has called you to be. I Peter 3:9-14** “Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. [10] For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: [11] Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. [12] For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. [13] And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? [14] But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;”
- B. Joy, during the times of persecution, for a child of God does not come from the current circumstances, but from the promise of eternal rewards.
- i. Understand that the rewards for the Christian life are not given in this life, they are earned in this life; then they rewarded in heaven. **Matt. 5:12** “Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for **great is your reward in heaven**: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”
 - ii. **I Cor. 3:13-14** “Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. [14] If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.”
 - iii. **II Cor. 4:17-18** “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; [18] While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”
- The true riches in life are reserved for those who live as children of God (peacemakers) faithfully without reservation until they cross the finish line of life’s race.

I Cor. 3:14

“If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.”

“Review Questions”

1. What does the word *Blessed* mean? **Happy, Happy.**
2. What is the job of a peacemaker? = **One who would step into conflict to resolve a conflict.**
3. God has equipped his children with truth. What truth has He equipped us with? **The Word of God.**
4. Those who live their lives as peacemakers will find themselves in the midst of????? **Persecution.**
5. The Bible does not tell us we will enjoy the persecution; but how does the Bible tell us how to respond?
 - a. **Trust**
 - b. **Prayer**
 - c. **Endure**
 - d. **Continue being the Christian God has called you to be**