

“Blessed Are The Peacemakers”

Matthew 5: 9

¹ Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them, saying:

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

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

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

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

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5: 1-12 (NIV)

³⁸ I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

³⁹ “Abraham is our father,” they answered.

“If you were Abraham's children,” said Jesus, “then you would do the things Abraham did. ⁴⁰ As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. John 8: 38-40 (NIV)

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Questions for personal or small group study and reflection:

1. Why are peacemakers called sons of God?
2. Is Jesus commanding us to make peace or is He calling us? How can we know?
3. Is Jesus speaking to individuals or communities? Why do you say that?
4. How can we become a community of peacemakers? What affect would that have on (a) the church, and (b) on our society?
5. As you reflect on your own relationships, can you think of anyone that you have not forgiven or that has something against you? What can you do to make peace in that situation?