

Matthew 5:1–9

- 1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.
- 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:
- 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

### ***Beatitudes – Part 6*** **Matthew 5:9**

INTRO:

We will look at the next beatitude which introduce our Lord’s Sermon on the Mount. These beatitudes are character traits which mark the identity of those who will inherit the kingdom of heaven. Today we will consider the beatitude, ***“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”*** (Matthew 5:9).

***I. Blessed Are the Peacemakers***

***II. Because They Will be Called the Sons of God***

***I. Blessed Are the Peacemakers***

***“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”*** (Matthew 5:9).

A. We begin by asking what is a peacemaker. To answer this question perhaps we should first talk about how the Bible defines ***“peace.”***

1. The Hebrew word for peace is ***shalom***. Shalom always meant more than just the absence of warfare. To have God’s shalom meant to possess ***“quiet, wellbeing, soundness, and salvation”*** in the life. Shalom only came because the presence of the LORD in the life. This seems clear from Aaron’s benediction (Numbers 6:23-26) which the LORD commanded him through Moses to say.

***“Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: “The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.””***

2. Coming over to the New Testament, the Greek Word acquired much of the content of Shalom. The peace and sense of rest and well-being we experience can only be ours through the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. We see two great examples of how we can have peace in the New Testament.

First, consider the Apostle Paul and what he wrote in **Romans 5**. He summarized our Justification which we received when we believed in Christ in **verses 1 and 2**.

***“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”***

He then proceeded to show how our tribulations and troubles do not destroy our peace but rather helps us to grow. Our peace was purchased because our sinless Savior died for us when we were sinners. **Verses 9-10** demonstrates our peace is much more than simply the end of hostilities.

***“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”***

In **Romans 10**, the Apostle Paul refers to those who carry the gospel as those who fulfill **Isaiah 52:7**.

***“How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”***

C. **Philippians 4:6-7** is the second text on peace in the New Testament. We can have peace positionally because we have been justified and reconciled. We can have it practically in our lives also. You know these verses.

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

While our positional peace is permanent, we do not always live in the reality of it. I am reminded of all the stories of people who lived like poverty-stricken people and yet were rich. Our practical peace depends on our exercise of faith. When we are afraid we need to pray. Talking with God is always the first step in finding peace.

***“Lord, I am worried about this.”*** Second, we need to present our list of needs (supplications) to God. We must not forget to thank Him for His provisions for us in the past. In my experience this last step is the key to having the miraculous peace from God flood my life through Jesus Christ.

D. If this is peace as defined in the Bible, then being a peacemaker cannot mean we need to become diplomats so we can make peace between nations. We also cannot be peacemakers by appeasing people. We must be peacemakers like Jesus is a peacemaker. We become peacemakers, first, by bring the message from the Prince of Peace to lost folks. This is the Gospel. People are reconciled to the holy God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This peace is so much more than just the ceasing from hostility. It is the beginning of a life lived with God.

**John 17:3** *“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”*

Eternal life is not only a life which will never end, but also a life filled with the living God.

E. A second way we can become peacemakers is to demonstrate God’s supernatural peace to others. **Philippians 4:8-9** is a great illustration of this.

*“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”*

## ***II. Because They Will Be Called the Sons of God***

***“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”*** (Matthew 5:9).

A. This is not another method to become saved. We do not become the sons of God in the sense of salvation by becoming peacemakers. Don’t ever forget **Ephesians 2:8-9**.

***“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”***

We cannot earn salvation by becoming peacemakers.

B. We get a clue how we should understand this in **Ephesians 5:1**.

***“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”***

Don Carson observed, *“In Jewish thought, ‘son’ often bears the meaning ‘partaker of the character of,’ or the like.”* Because a son often followed in his father’s trade and exhibited his father’s values, Jesus promised us, if we seek to make peace as Christ desires us to make peace, people will notice our spiritual family resemblance.

## **What Do We Take From This?**

1. We need to possess the Prince of Peace in our lives by faith before we can be peacemakers in Christ’s sense of the word. The peace of salvation is the first message we bring to others who have no peace.

2. There cannot be peace where Christ is not present. There may be an absence of outward conflict but there is no peace. James wrote in **James 4:1-2**, *“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.”* We cannot make peace “with out,” if there is no peace “with in.”

### ***Constantly Abiding***