

### MATTHEW 5:3-12

- In this passage of scripture, Jesus is describing one person, that has these character traits.
- Jesus is essentially saying that a person is happy, if they have these traits.
- This is Jesus, teaching us how to be, “happy”.
- It would be safe to replace the word **blessed** with the word **happy**.
- *Recap from sermon 6. We looked at what it means to have a pure heart. A pure heart is one that desires the same things that God wants for our lives.*
- *We looked at the use and abuse of alcohol*
- This week we’re going to look at **MATTHEW 5:9** Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God
- The scripture says blessed are the peacemakers, not “peace lovers”.
- Most folks love peace but few consciously go about seeking to make peace amongst people.
- What are some characteristics of a peacemaker?

1. A peace maker will go out of their way to restore relationships

**PROVERBS 18:19** A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.

**EPHESIANS 4:1-3** “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

- This person does not shy away from necessary conflict
- It’s interesting to note that words like longsuffering, bearing with one another, endeavoring, are used when dealing with the body of Christ. This means that the body will be subjected to great onslaught from the devil and will require effort to keep it functioning like the body of Christ should. Love alone, without love in action will not suffice.

**PROVERBS 4:23** Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

**(MSG)** Keep vigilant watch over your heart; that’s where life starts

**(NLT2nd)** Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life

2. A peacemaker always has the Kingdom of God in mind, when dealing with relationships. This is not referring to heaven but rather “righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” as per Romans 14:17

**ROMANS 14:17** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

- It's interesting to note that Jesus describes peacemakers as being called sons of God, just like those that are led by the Spirit of God, are called sons of God:

**ROMANS 8:14** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God

3. A peacemaker has peace within, before being able to share peace with others. This means knowing, that you're redeemed, justified and are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Loving yourself like Jesus loves you!

4. A peacemaker engages the spiritual battle in the heavenly realm, that makes for peace in the natural realm. This person has a lifestyle of fervent intercession:

**2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6** "for though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled"

**(NLT2nd)** "We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. And after you have become fully obedient, we will punish everyone who remains disobedient"

- Consider what dedication and commitment to prayer this passage from Isaiah, requires:

**ISAIAH 62:6-7** "I have set **watchmen** on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

**(MSG)** "I've posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem. Day and night they keep at it, praying, calling out, reminding GOD to remember. They are to give him no peace until He does what He said, until He makes Jerusalem famous as the City of Praise."

**JAMES 5:16** **Confess** your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The **effective**, **fervent** prayer of a **righteous** man avails much.

- Confession= mutual accountability
- Effective= praying what's on God's heart for His body and the world
- Fervent= relentless tireless intercession
- Righteous= right standing with The Father

5. A peacemaker exercises/uses the mind of Christ to bring about peace, not mere human wisdom

**1 CORINTHIANS 2:16(NLT2nd)** For, "Who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?" But we understand these things, for **we have the mind of Christ**

**PHILIPPIANS 2:5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus

**(MSG)** Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself

**(NLT2nd)** You must have the same **attitude** that Christ Jesus had

- This attitude refers to that described in **PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4**
- We'll never truly know peace until we truly know the Prince of Peace:

**ISAIAH 9:6** For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.

### **CARE GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Why do you think it's hard for people too deal with offense?
2. The word offense means taking the bait as in a trap or snare. Would you say this description is appropriate and why?
3. What role can we as Christians play, especially in South Africa, in being peacemakers?
4. It what ways can the church be relevant, in day to day problems that people face, where real peace is required?
5. How can we guard/keep our own hearts, from losing peace?