

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Priority of Peacemaking

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 5:9

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1663

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1) INTRODUCTION

a) Matthew 5:1-9

i) Matthew 5:3

(1) Blessed are those who see their spiritual need; that they are bankrupt in the sight of a righteous and a holy God.

ii) Matthew 5:4

(1) Blessed are those who are broken over their sins, who truly repent and turn from their sins.

iii) Matthew 5:5

(1) Blessed are those who yield to God and are ready to accept His will for their lives.

iv) Matthew 5:6

(1) Our righteousness is Jesus Christ Himself, who is God's answer to man's sins.

v) Matthew 5:7

(1) We show mercy because we've been shown mercy.
(2) We've received mercy through the Lord Jesus Christ.

vi) Matthew 5:8

(1) When we have come this route, then God purifies our hearts and gives us a fresh vision of Himself.
(2) God becomes a bright, living reality.

vii) Matthew 5:9

b) No one can buy peace.

i) No one can buy this commodity, and it is a commodity that the world needs more than anything else.

c) We have made the world a neighborhood, but we haven't made it a brotherhood.

i) There is a desperate need for peace.

d) James 4 is one of the most significant passages in the Bible as we search for peace.

i) James 4:1-4

ii) James mentions three wars that are going on:

(1) We war among ourselves.

(a) James 4:1

(b) Men are at war with one another.

(c) We may have a truce now and then, but there is no peace.

(d) We have no peace religiously, economically, racially, socially, politically, personally or in families.

(2) We war within ourselves.

(a) James 4:1

(b) There is a war on the inside that wars in our members.

(c) People are not at peace.

(i) This is why they cannot be at peace with anyone else.

(ii) They are in turmoil themselves.

1. They are a fight and an argument going somewhere to happen.
- (3) We are at war with God.
 - (a) James 4:4
 - (i) The word “enmity” here means “warfare.”
 - (b) We are at war with one another because we are at war with ourselves.
 - (i) We are at war with ourselves because we are at war with God.
 - (c) Isaiah 57:21
- e) Until we are right with God in this world, we will be a trouble maker and not a peacemaker.

2) THE ATTRIBUTE OF PEACE

- a) Peace is not appeasement.
 - i) Don't get the idea that if you are an appeaser that you are a peacemaker.
 - ii) Appeasement never brings peace.
 - iii) We are not honor-bound to get along with everyone.
 - (1) There is something wrong with the person who can get along with everybody.
 - iv) Romans 12:18
 - (1) It is not always possible to be at peace with all men.
 - v) We are known by the enemies that we make.
 - vi) Every man of God has those who don't love him.
 - (1) All of us who stand for God will have enemies.
 - vii) The Lord Jesus Christ did not get along with everybody, and everybody did not get along with the Lord Jesus.
- b) Peace is not truce-making.
 - i) A truce only means that there is a succession of hostilities.
 - (1) There can still be a cold war that goes underground to fester and to grow and, perhaps, to break out again.
- c) Peace is not the absence of war of any kind, hot or cold.
 - i) There is no strife in a cemetery, but that is not peace.
 - (1) It takes more than a grave marker to bring peace to a troubled soul.
- d) When the Bible uses the word “peace”, it is a positive word.
 - i) In the Old Testament and even today, the Jewish people greet one another with the word “Shalom.”
 - (1) “Shalom” means “peace.”
 - (a) It does not mean, “May you get out of war.”
 - (b) Instead, it infers that there is something good, wonderful and positive happening.
- e) Peace is a right relationship with God that leads to a right relationship with self, and guides us in a right relationship with other people.
 - i) It is a sense of well-being.
 - ii) Peace is literally the result and fruit of righteousness.

- f) Righteousness and peace are linked.
 - i) An unrighteous person can never have peace.
 - ii) Isaiah 48:22
 - iii) The only way to have peace is to have righteousness.
 - (1) Matthew 5:8-9
 - (a) There is no peace without purity.
 - (i) James 3:17
 - iv) Psalm 85:10
 - (1) There is a marriage between righteousness and peace.
 - (a) Matthew 19:6
 - v) Hebrews 7:2
 - (1) Melchizedek is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (2) Melchizedek is called two things:
 - (a) King of righteousness
 - (b) King of peace
- g) Peace is the righteousness of God ruling and reigning in your heart.

3) THE ADVERSARY OF PEACE

- a) It follows as night follows day that if peace is linked with righteousness, then war and lack of peace are rooted in sin.
 - i) Isaiah 48:22
- b) Sin is the problem.
 - i) Sin separates men from God.
 - ii) Sin brings inner turmoil, and it separates men from men.
- c) Jeremiah 8:11-12
 - i) People give a false peace saying, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace.
 - ii) There can be no peace without purity.
 - (1) We have people today yelling, "Peace," but they can't even blush over their sins.
- d) The adversary of peace is sin, and this is the reason why the Bible does not teach peace at any price.
 - i) Matthew 10:34
 - (1) The Lord Jesus is the Prince of Peace, yet He said that He came not to send peace, but a sword.
 - (a) Luke 2:14
 - (b) Matthew 5:9
 - ii) Jesus did not come to bring some sort of false peace and union of good and evil.
 - (1) He came with a sword to put a line of demarcation between truth and error, light and dark, and between sin and righteousness.
 - iii) When God's standard of righteousness is set, there will always be a division.
 - (1) Without righteousness, there can be no Godly peace.
 - iv) Peace can never come where sin remains.

- (1) God will never make a peace treaty with sin.
- v) There can never be peace without first surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

4) THE ATTAINMENT OF PEACE

- a) This peace has been planned by the Father.
 - i) Jeremiah 29:11
 - (1) God's thoughts toward us are thoughts of peace.
 - (2) God desires peace for us.
 - ii) Six times in the New Testament, He is called the God of peace.
 - iii) Judges 6:24
 - (1) "Jehovah Shalom" means "The Lord Our Peace."
- b) Peace has been purchased by the Son.
 - i) Ephesians 2:13-14
 - (1) We were far off; we were enemies.
 - (2) But we are now made nigh by the blood of Christ.
 - ii) Colossians 1:19-20
 - (1) Jesus Christ, on the cross, provided this peace.
 - iii) At the cross, wickedness was not appeased but confronted.
 - (1) At the cross, sin was not overlooked; it was atoned and paid for.
 - iv) God's greatest righteousness confronted man's greatest wickedness.
 - (1) Righteousness won, and peace was attained through the blood of the cross.
 - v) We don't make peace; Jesus made peace through the blood of His cross.
- c) Peace is provided by the Holy Spirit of God.
 - i) Galatians 5:22
 - ii) John 14:16, 26-27
 - iii) It is the Holy Spirit who brings peace to our hearts and minds.
 - iv) The Holy Spirit is the executor of the will of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - v) John 14:27
 - (1) The world does not give us this peace, and the world cannot take it away.
- d) Philippians 4:7

5) THE AGENTS OF PEACE

- a) Matthew 5:9
 - i) We are God's agents of peace.
- b) We are ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c) Peace is reconciliation.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 5:18
 - ii) Our ministry is the ministry of reconciliation.
 - (1) This is simply soul-winning; telling people about Jesus.

- d) The greatest thing we can ever do is to receive the peace that Jesus Christ made on the cross, let the peace of God rule and reign in our hearts, and then be a peacemaker, not simply a peace lover.
 - i) Do not be an appeaser: making peace with sin and unrighteousness.
 - ii) Lift up the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) Corrie Ten Boom wisely said the following:
 - i) If you look around, you'll be distressed.
 - ii) If you look within, you'll be depressed.
 - iii) If you look to Jesus, you'll be at rest.
- b) Peace comes from Jesus.
- c) Do you have peace with God?
 - i) You'll never know peace until something is done about the sin problem.
 - ii) Romans 5:1
 - (1) You're not justified any other way but by trusting Christ.
- d) Today, if you will trust the Lord Jesus, then you can have peace with God, peace with yourself, and peace with others.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16