

Blessings: The Blessing of Peacemaking

Matthew 5:9

Opening Discussion:

1. Have you ever served as a mediator between two people? How did that go?
2. What does it take to make peace between two people or groups?
3. What does it take to have peace with God?
4. If you are a follower of Christ, how does it impact you to be called a son or daughter of God?

The Seventh Blessing Statement

Transition: As we continue our study of the blessing statements of Jesus, we've come to the seventh statement, "**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**"

As we unpack that statement, here's one way we can capture what Jesus is teaching:

Those who dedicate their lives to advancing the gospel are acknowledged by God as His sons and daughters.

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

1. The peacemakers

- Only used one time in the New Testament
- It's the combination of two common words: peace, a noun, and makers, a verb
- Used outside of the New Testament
 - To describe God as one who removes war and conflict
 - To describe a diplomat who makes peace between warring nations
 - To describe older men who were working for peace when the younger men wanted to go to war
- The first part of the word, peace, is the Greek version of the Hebrew word Shalom
 - Shalom means peace
 - But is it more than peace
 - Shalom is
 - Completeness, wholeness
 - The full blessing of God
 - The fullness of life the way God intended it to be
 - The redemption and restoration of what has been lost
- The second part of the word

- Implies that peace has been lost
- Or that peace is in danger
- A peacemaker is not needed when peace already exists
- Four Applications
 - Those who make peace between others
 - Those who keep peace between themselves and others
 - Those who make peace between people and God
 - Those who keep peace between themselves and God
- In our fallen world, gospel work is peacemaking work

2. They shall be called sons of God

- Sons
 - Should be read as “children”
 - Includes daughters
 - BUT emphasizes the rights given to sons
 - In other words, men and women who are peacemakers receive the status and benefits of being sons.
- We are God’s “sons” and daughters
 - But not in the same way that Jesus is God’s Son
 - Jesus is the Eternal Son of God
 - We are adopted sons and daughters
- This phrase mainly means two things
 - First, that by grace we are given the privileged place of sons and daughters
 - They shall be called
 - Called= declared to be
 - They are acknowledged as sons and daughters
 - By who? By God
- Second, that by making peace, we are doing our Father’s work

Matthew 5:43-45

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **44** But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

- God’s great work in this universe is the gospel.
- God’s offer of grace extends to everyone (just and the unjust).
- When we advance the gospel, we are joining God in His great work of restoring and rebuilding what has been destroyed by sin.

Those who dedicate their lives to advancing the gospel are acknowledged by God as His sons and daughters.