

Briefing Document: The Sermon on the Mount – Happy Are the Peacemakers

Matthew: Lesson 36

August 24, 2025

This briefing document summarizes the key themes and essential takeaways from The Sermon on the Mount – Happy Are the Peacemakers: Lesson 36. The sermon, delivered by Steve, focuses on the biblical definition of peace, the obstacles to achieving it, and the path to becoming a true peacemaker—rooted in personal righteousness and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Main Themes

1. Biblical Peace Defined as the Presence of Righteousness, Not the Absence of Conflict

- Peace is not the absence of conflict as much as it is the presence of righteousness that causes right relationships.
- True peace is inseparable from truth and purity: Peace is never sought at the expense of righteousness, and peace can only come through purity.
- Jesus did not bring “peace at any price.” Instead, He confronted error with truth, which brought division and disruption.
 - “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.” (Matthew 10:34, NKJV)
- Speaking God’s truth into a sinful world makes one a divider, disturber, and disruptor before peace can come.

2. The Menace to Peace is Sin and Untruth

- The greatest obstacle to peace is sin, error, and lies.
- The human heart is inherently wicked:
 - “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9, NKJV)
- The Lord declares: “There is no peace,” says the LORD, “for the wicked.” (Isaiah 48:22; 57:21, NKJV)
- Jesus explained that defilement comes from within:
 - “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.” (Mark 7:20–23, NKJV)

- Peace cannot be produced by a sinful heart. It is the fruit of holiness, righteousness, and purity.

3. True Peacemakers Speak Truth and Confront Sin

- Biblical peacemakers are not compromisers, appeasers, or those who merely avoid conflict.
- They speak God's truth—even when it causes discomfort or opposition:
 - "The only way to make peace...is to speak the truth—the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ."
- A true peacemaker does not ignore wrongdoing but brings God's truth to bear on it.
- Avoiding truth for the sake of "peace" results only in a temporary truce, not genuine peace.

4. The Path to Peacemaking Begins with Personal Righteousness (The Beatitudes)

Becoming a peacemaker is the fruit of walking through the earlier Beatitudes (Matthew 5):

- Poor in Spirit (5:3): Recognizing one's spiritual poverty and inability to produce goodness on one's own.
- Mourning (5:4): Grieving deeply over personal sin.
- Meekness (5:5): Living in humility before a sovereign God.
- Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness (5:6): Longing for God's righteousness and being filled with it.
- Merciful (5:7): Receiving God's mercy and extending it to others.
- Pure in Heart (5:8): Only a pure heart can produce true peace.

The sermon emphasized that genuine peacemaking "will bear first fruits that are righteous in nature."

5. Persecution is an Expected Outcome for Righteous Peacemakers

- Following Christ's call to be a peacemaker brings persecution:
 - "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:10, NKJV)
- The sinful world resists peace built on God's righteousness.
- Personal testimony: the pastor shared how, after conversion, he was mocked as a "lunatic" because his life changed from aggression to love.
- Jesus, the greatest Peacemaker, was also a "conflict initiator" (e.g., driving out money changers in the temple) and was ultimately crucified.

6. Peace is Found Only in Jesus Christ and Dealing with Sin

- Human attempts at peace—through treaties, diplomacy, or false religion—fail because they do not address the sinful heart.
- Jesus Christ is the Author of Peace:
 - "For He Himself is our peace." (Ephesians 2:14, NKJV)
- Peace comes through His sacrifice: "Having made peace through the blood of His cross." (Colossians 1:20, NKJV)

- The ultimate peacemaking act is reconciling sinners to God through Christ's blood.
- Listeners are challenged:
 - The Unsaved: Accept Christ as Savior to receive peace with God.
 - The Saved: Pursue holiness rather than "mediocre Christianity," to experience true peace in every aspect of life.

Key Ideas / Facts

- Source Scripture: Matthew 5:9–10 (NKJV): "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
- Definition of Peace: The presence of righteousness, not the absence of conflict.
- Obstacle to Peace: Sin and the internal wickedness of the human heart (Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:20–23).
- Role of a Peacemaker: Speak God's truth, confront sin, and promote righteousness—even if it provokes conflict.
- Path to Peacemaking: Begins with the Beatitudes—poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, hunger for righteousness, mercy, and purity of heart.
- Consequence of Peacemaking: Persecution for righteousness' sake.
- Ultimate Peacemaker: Jesus Christ, whose sacrifice reconciles man to God.
- Challenge to Listeners: Accept Jesus for salvation and grow in holiness and purity.
- Micro vs. Macro Peace: World peace (macro) is only possible when individuals (micro) first have peace with God.

Practical Applications / Announcements

- NLOT Team (Outreach): Meets Friday at 9 AM.
- Fundamentals of Faith Class: Meets after the service.
- Children's Church: Located in the library across the patio.
- End Times Study: Tonight at 6:30 PM—beginning a new section on the timing of Jesus' return for His church.
- Encouragement from a Supporter: The pastor is described as a "leader, motivator, and coach"—pushing people out of their comfort zones to facilitate spiritual growth.

Closing Summary

This sermon emphasizes that genuine peace is not superficial calm but the fruit of righteousness and truth. True peacemakers courageously speak the Gospel of Christ into a broken world, even when it brings persecution. Lasting peace is found only in Jesus Christ, the ultimate Peacemaker, who reconciles man to God through His sacrifice on the cross.

✓ No Greek words were found in this document.