

MATTHEW 5 - THE BEATITUDES

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS,

FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD.

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MATTHEW 5.9

Hebrew: *shalom* - comprehensive well-being in every direction and relation

Greek: *eirene* - the absence of moral and spiritual conflict; resolution, unity

- ▶ This is the seventh beatitude; the Biblical number “seven” represents perfection, completeness, fullness.
- ▶ On the seventh day God rested, a rest—a place of peace—that we have that we have been invited to enter by faith, through the finished work of Christ—

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.

HEBREWS 4.9-10

- ▶ As the seventh beatitude, we are led to understand that the ability to be a peacemaker—and therefore, a complete child of God—rests on the presence of the preceding six qualities.

- (1) Poverty of heart - complete dependence on God; nothing to defend, nothing to lose, no desire to gain or have the upper hand
- (2) Presence of mourning - the empathy of heart, capacity for sincere compassion, and the ability to give worthy comfort—all of which can only be produced by one's own experience of mourning
- (3) Meekness of spirit - true surrender and defense of self, the outcome of circumstances and my "cause"—all entrusted to God; humility of heart; my only agenda is Him
- (4) Hungering and thirsting of righteousness – a compelling and consuming desire for His rightness and His justice; no need to be right before others but for His rightness to be experienced

- (5) A merciful heart - the merciful one has deeply experienced their own failure and transgression, and in understanding the great act of forgiveness extended to them is “large of heart” –quick to forgive and reconcile, to cover offenses with love
- (6) Purity of heart - no ulterior motives, no personal interest, no competition or comparison with another; all that matters is having a heart that reflects Jesus in all of his clarity and preeminence

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

EPHESIANS 2.15-18

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

JAMES 3.13-18