

The Beatitudes

Lesson 7

Introduction.

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the beatitudes found in Matthew 5:3-12.
2. The seventh beatitude, like the other beatitudes, is of great importance to genuine happiness now and in eternity.
3. It too is in a logical sequence in regard to the previous six beatitudes.
 - a. Poverty of one's spiritual condition leads to mourning over sin.
 - b. Mourning over sin leads to Godly sorrow and repentance.
 - c. This leads to meekness, that is submission to God' will.
 - d. The one who is submissive to God will "hunger and thirst for righteousness," that is to be right with God and do what pleases God.
 - e. The one who is right with God will be motivated to be merciful to others and will long to be pure in heart.
 - f. The justified one will seek to be at peace with others in addition to being pleasing to God.
4. The one justified knows God loves peacemakers and despises troublemakers.
5. The one who is truly happy loves what God loves and hates what God hates.

Seventh Beatitude

MAT 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

- The Greek "eirenopoios" [ay ray nah poi **ahs**] is "a maker of peace, peacemaker."
- 1. God's children must be "peacemakers," not trouble makers. (Prov. 6:16-19; Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 3:3; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 3:10-11).

Prov 6:16 There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

Prov 6:17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,

Prov 6:18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,

Prov 6:19 A false witness {who} utters lies, **And one who spreads strife among brothers.**

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

1 Thess 5:12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,

1 Thess 5:13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. **Live in peace with one another.**

Paul penned these words to elders

1 Tim 3:3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious [violent], but gentle, **peaceable**, free from the love of money.

Heb 12:14 **Pursue peace with all men**, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

1 Pet 3:10 For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT.

1 Pet 3:11 "HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; **HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.**

- a. It is sad some Christians delight in promoting and spreading strife in and out of the church.
- b. The faithful child of God seeks to get along with others and to promote peace in and out of the church.
- c. He knows that conflict hurts [damages] the body of Christ and keeps unbelievers from coming to Christ.
- d. We will have conflicts in the home, the church and the community, but we must seek to resolve them in a loving and peaceful manner.

2. Paul admonished Christians to be “peacemakers” (Rom. 12:18; 14:19).

Rom 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Rom 14:19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

- a. Others may not seek peace, but the Christian is one who seeks to get along with others in the church and outside of the church.
- b. He/she always strives to be a peacemaker.
- c. **This does not mean peace at any price!** Sin must not be accepted for the sake of peace!
- d. Abraham was a wonderful example of a peacemaker. (Gen. 13:5-11).

Gen 13:5 Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents.

Gen 13:6 And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together.

Gen 13:7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land.

Gen 13:8 So Abram said to Lot, "**Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. [What a powerful example for believers].**

Gen 13:9 "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if {to} the left, then I will go to the right; or if {to} the right, then I will go to the left."

Gen 13:10 Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere-- {this was} before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah--like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.

Gen 13:11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan.

- a. **The unselfish and God-fearing Abram sought to be a peacemaker.**
- b. A lesser man would have chosen what he believed to be the best land for himself regardless of the consequences.

- c. His choice had the great potential of creating great hostility between he and his nephew Lot.
- d. **He loved Lot too much to create hard feelings and even war with him.**
- e. Because of his peace-loving attitude, there was no conflict between Lot and his nephew and peace prevailed though at first there was strife between their herdsmen.

3. **Being a peacemaker is not always easy, and can be very dangerous.**

- a. Peacemakers often **put themselves in a very dangerous position.**
- b. Both sides may turn on them if they hear or feel something they do not like or agree with.
- c. This is often true of counselors and others who seek to promote peace.
- d. One party may charge the peacemaker with favoritism or they do not really understand how he/she feels.
- e. Some become angry saying “I thought you were on my side.”
- f. They are only satisfied if they get their own way.

4. **Here are some ways we can be peacemakers.**

a. **Unselfish spirit.** (Gen. 13:7-11).

- 1) We have already emphasized the unselfish spirit of Abram.
- 2) Added to this, it is vital that we heed the exhortation Paul gave in the book of Philippians. (Phil. 2:4).

Phil 2:4 do not {merely} look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

- 3) The words “personal interests” are an example of an ellipsis and should be rendered “personal interests only.”
- 4) We must look after personal interests, but we should not look after personal interests only.
- 5) Jesus put the interest of others before His own interest, and we need to follow the example of Jesus.

b. **Golden Rule** (Matt. 7:12).

Matt 7:12 "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

- 1) Treating others as we wish to be treated promotes peace.
- 2) Both the Old and New Testaments teach we should treat others in the way we want them to treat us.

c. **Good for evil.** (Matt. 5:38-42; Rom. 12:17-21).

- 1) In the same sermon as the beatitudes, Jesus said to the multitude.

Matt 5:38 "You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.'

Matt 5:39 "But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to

him also.

Matt 5:40 "If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.

Matt 5:41 "Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.

Matt 5:42 "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

2) Later Paul wrote.

Rom 12:17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

Rom 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Rom 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath {of God,} for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

Rom 12:20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD."

Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

d. **Be willing to compromise on non-essential things.** - Many things are a matter of opinion and tradition, not from the word of God.

1) The order of service

2) The length of service or the time the church should meet on Sunday.

3) Old and New scriptural songs - Many great hymns have been written in the past and today.

4) How or when the contribution should be collected on the first day of the week.

e. **Be forgiving.** (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13).

Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Col 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

1) Forgiveness goes a long way in keeping peace.

2) Only God knows the innumerable quarrels, wars, etc. that have occurred because of a lack of forgiveness.

f. **Not telling everything one knows.**

1) There are some things we are forbidden by the law of the land to keep secret. (1 Cor. 13:4). The Greek word "ste go" can mean "bear," but it can also mean to cover, keep secret."

2) This does not mean we should tell everything we know.

3) Telling everything we know hurts people and creates trouble that harms and destroys others.

4) We must use love and wisdom in sharing information with or about others.

g. **Do not be domineering demanding one's own way.** (3 Jno. 9).

3 John 1:9 I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.

1) Diotrephes and those like him do great damage to friendships, the home, the church and the nation.

2) The peacemaker does not demand his own way unless it is clearly God's way.

3) **Even seeking God's way should be done in love.** (1 Pet. 4:8).

1 Pet 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

h. **Mind one own business** (1 Pet. 4:15).

1 Pet 4:15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a **troublesome meddler**; NJKV reads "a busybody in other people's matters."

I. **Going to the person who may have something against you.** (Matt. 5:23-24).

1) Again in Jesus' sermon from the mount, He spoke these words promoting peace.

Matt 5:23 "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

Matt 5:24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

2) Worship is really important, but it must not come before being right with one's brother or sister.

3) Jesus taught one should "first be reconciled" to his brother or sister.

Blessing Of Being A Peacemaker

1. Jesus **attaches a great blessing** to being a peacemaker.

2. Peacemakers "shall be" "called sons of God" now as well as the future.

a. We are all "sons of God" through creation (Gen. 1:26, 27), but we must become a part of God's spiritual family.

b. Being a son of God by creation only is not sufficient for salvation.

c. We become "sons of God" through faith and baptism. (Mk. 16:16; Gal. 3:26, 27).

Mark 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

d. Faith and baptism are vital to becoming "sons of God."

e. We manifest we are "sons of God" by being peacemakers.

f. We also manifest we are God's children when we demonstrate "fruit of the Spirit" in our lives. (Gal 5:22,23).

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

g. See also Colossians 3:12-17.

Col 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

Col 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Col 3:14 Beyond all these things {put on} love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms {and} hymns {and} spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, {do} all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Problem Passage

1. Before we conclude this lesson on being peacemakers, we need to consider a problem passage.

Matt 10:34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."

2. Jesus here emphasized He did not come "to bring peace on the earth."

3. **What did Jesus mean by these words?** We do not need to guess or speculate.

4. His explanation is found in the verses that immediately follow this difficult statement. (Matt. 10:35, 36).

Matt 10:35 "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW;

Matt 10:36 and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.

a. Jesus knew He would be loved by some people and be bitterly hated by many others.

b. This hatred could come from one's own family.

c. This hatred for Him would be so intense that it would cause men to persecute Jesus and those who would follow Him.

d. It would cause even one's family members to turn against him and even hate him.

e. Jesus was hated as "the light of the world" (Jn. 8:12), and the world will hate those who "walk in the light."

1) Darkness nearly always hates the light.

2) Light reveals the loathsome deeds done in darkness and how loathsome and repulsive they are.

Conclusion.

1. Those who are "sons of God" must heed this seventh beatitude and the instructions Paul gave in the preceding verses.

2. By our conduct we should be known as peacemakers who are always working to the glory of God.

3. Peacemakers are not always loved and appreciated by other Christians and the world, but they always seek to please

the heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. "They shall be called sons of God" by God Himself and those who love and pursue peace.
5. **The next beatitude is a shock to most believers.**
6. Jesus will conclude these beatitudes by teaching those who follow them will be persecuted.
7. He will really shock believers by affirming they should rejoice when persecuted.

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