

Blessings in Peacemaking & Persecutions

A Life Truly Blessed - Part 4
July 18 & 19, 2009

Matt. 5.9-12

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

*Blessed are those who are
persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against
you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because
great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way
they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Peace with God is broken by sin...Christ came

Romans 5.1

*Therefore, since we have been justified
through faith, we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ*

The secret to Shalom:

A _____ John 14.2

Qualifications of a peacemaker

-We must be _____ to God 'in Christ'

-We must embrace the _____

-We must be prepared to share _____

-We must _____

... for they will be called sons of God.

God's encouragement: Those who embrace God's mission _____

*Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,*

How to endure 'wrongs' without 'spiritual injury'

• Pray & _____ 1 Peter 2.20

• Realize _____ 2 Cor. 12.9-10

• Leave _____ Romans 12.19-20

The Promised Blessing:

*Rejoice and be glad, because
great is your reward in heaven...*

Questions for Personal Reflection & Group Discussion

1. We are urged to have peace *with* God (Romans 5.1), experience the peace *of* God (Philippians 4:6-7), make every effort to live at peace with all (Hebrews 12.14), put on the Gospel of Peace (Ephesians 6:15). Discuss the importance of peace and why Jesus is rightly described as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9.6).
2. Why do you think there is special status in Jesus' words in the beatitude for peacemakers? What are some of the implications (and responsibilities) of bearing the title '*sons (children) of God*'. (John 1.12; Romans 8.16; Ephesians 5.1). Are you comfortable with that title? Why or why not?
3. Is there a difference between peacekeeping and peacemaking? Can you think of situations where you have not spoken out or stood up for others or got involved in making peace in a conflict? Why was that and should you have acted differently?
4. Have you ever been hassled for your faith? Of the suggestions made in today's talk about 'enduring wrongs without spiritual injury', which is most challenging?

Series Wrap Up Questions

5. What does "blessed" mean? Some have suggested "happy" as a synonym for "blessed." Does that seem adequate? Why? Why not?
6. Each Beatitude contains a character trait (or virtue). Review them again & attempt a basic definition of the eight terms.
7. Which of these traits seems most challenging to you? Why? Can you share specific ways you have seen growth of these marks of discipleship in yourself?