**The Inside Out**, **Kingdom of God: The Sermon on the Mount Matt. 5-7**

***Upside Down***

**Matthew 5:9**

**Previous Beatitudes:**

1. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall or will be comforted
3. “Blessed are the (meek) surrendered, for they shall inherit the earth.”
4. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”
5. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”
6. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

**This Week’s Beatitude:**

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

**Recalling, briefly, the fourth Beatitude:**

* This beatitude tells us that satisfaction and happiness comes for those who have a hunger and thirst for righteousness.
* **Right Living** – Being eager to live as God requires.
* **Doing Justice** – Wishing to see God’s will prevail with justice.

**Righteousness explained even further in specific ways: (the next few Beatitudes)**

* Mercy (7), Purity (8), and **Peacemaking** (9).

**Points to Ponder:**

* With each beatitude another nail is driven into a coffin. Inside the coffin lies the corpse of a false understanding of salvation. **The false understanding said that a person can be saved without being changed**. Or: that a person can inherit eternal life even if his attitudes and actions are like the attitudes and actions of unbelievers.
* **One after the other the beatitudes tell us that the blessings of eternity will be given only to those who have become new creatures.** Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

*If we don’t obtain mercy, we receive judgement!*

*If we don’t see God, we are not in heaven!*

*If we are not called sons of God, we are outside the family of God!*

**Big Idea:** The Blessings of the Beatitudes are all descriptions of final salvation!

* From the beginning to the end of the Sermon on the Mount cries out, “Get yourself a new heart!” Become a new person! Remember the words of **Matthew 5:20** “Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Judgement is at the door!

**In this Beatitude Jesus says that Sons of God are in fact peacemakers, because they have the same character as their father.**

**God of Peace**

**Romans 16:20:**

20The **God of peace** will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23:**

23Now may the **God of peace** himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 13:20:**

20Now may the **God of peace** who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant…

**Heaven is a World of Peace**

**Luke 19:38:**

38saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! **Peace in heaven** and glory in the highest!”

**Most Importantly, God is a Peacemaker**

**2 Cor. 5:19:**

19that is, **in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself**, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

**Peace is a Fruit of the Spirit**

**Rom. 8:14:**

“All who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.”

* *Being led by the Spirit* always includes **bearing the fruit of the Spirit**. And peace is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22).

**What It Means to Be a Peacemaker?**

**Matthew 5:43-45:**

43“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44But I say to you, **Love your enemies** and **pray for those who persecute you**, 45so 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.

**Two Example:**

* Love Your Enemy – Go out of your way to show love to those who don’t like you.
* Pray for those who persecute you. Pray for their salvation, Pray for them to become more like God. Pray for their wellbeing.

**Ministry of Reconciliation:**

**2 Corinthians 5:18:**

18All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**…

* We are called to restore and reconcile relationships (especially in the church).

**Strive to Live Peacefully:**

**Rom. 12:18**

18If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

*“As far as it depends on you”*

* This is the goal of peacemaker. “As far as it depends on you” Don’t let *the tension* in the relationship *be your fault*.

*“If possible” … “live at peace”*

**Question:**

* Is it your fault when the stand that you take is causing the division? If you have alienated someone and brought down their anger upon your head because you have done or said what is right, have you ceased to be a peacemaker?

**Answer:**

* Paul here admits that there will be times that standing for the truth will make it impossible.

**Extra: Example where peace isn’t possible:** 1 Cor. 7:15 (Paul); and remember Jesus’ statement of not coming to the earth for peace (Matt. 10:34).

**Final Points:**

* We are called to be peacemakers.
* Peacemaking takes effort, and is often uncomfortable.
* The ministry of reconciliation is a very much needed ministry in the church. **Protecting the church from division** is our Christian duty.
* We have to be **willing to repent** when a tension of a relationship is our fault.
* Standing upon the truth and doing what is right will often create a tension that you can’t fix.
* We are called by Jesus to pray and love even those who hate us. Maybe there are some people/relationships Jesus is calling us to pray for that we never expected we should put on our prayer list.