

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S7E14

Blessed are the Peacemakers - Matthew 5:9

Description – Continuing to look at the Beatitudes, we examine peacemakers from Matthew 5:9

Last week we talked about the pure at heart from Matthew 5:8. Today we move on to Matthew 5:9.

Matthew 5:9

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

Notice that Jesus doesn't say "blessed are those who are peaceful..."

Blessed are those who are serene, blessed are those who are peaceful. He's not talking about being and having shalom / peace in your heart and mind.

He's not implying that someone who's at peace is someone who has no troubles, no burdens.

So what does it mean to be a "peacemaker" the makers of peace?

Part of it would be bringing peace between two parties, acting as a mediator between two people. But there's an active intentionality behind it. It's not by accident or withdrawing. You're engaged, you're part of the solution.

"Blessed are the peacemakers" - a peacemaker is someone who actively seeks to put out fires. They seek to restore harmony between others within the body of Christ.

They understand their role as one who has been reconciled to God, and as Paul states, they have now been given the ministry of reconciliation.

They actively seek to extinguish problems, disagreements, and quarrels; some even before they happen.

The Jews believed the Messiah would bring peace. They think that His peace will come when Rome is decimated in battle, destroyed, and Israel is now at peace with a King.

But Jesus says the Kingdom of Heaven is here, now. It's moving forward and Rome still exists. How can this be? Because His Kingdom isn't of this world. One day He will be ruling and reigning in person, but for now, His kingdom moves forward through people living out the kingdom ethic in their day to day lives.

Link to zealots episode here:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/3XOf0Bc8pmOZYr0j9wV7Fu?si=54d4469d7e6e48db&nd=1&dl=8ee9223b451d4f8e>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-forgotten-jesus-podcast/id1662689332?i=1000715546152>

Three were 5 movements in the life of Judaism that took off after the Maccabean revolt where the Macabee family retakes the temple mount.

1. Herodians
2. Essenes
3. Pharisees
4. Sadducees
5. Zealots

The Zealots believed that God's Kingdom would come through the sword. They believed it required force, sacrifice, and bloodshed. They were quick to fight, and wanted war/strife to overthrow Rome

Link to episode about the disciples all being young, possibly even teenagers here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jzwn9T6doS8&t=51s>

So why does Pastor think Peter may have been a Zealot, or connected to them:

1. He's carrying a sword from the zealot group.
2. Peter was quick to act, then think.
 - a. Remember how impulsive Peter is, wanting to take things by force.
3. Peter's beliefs were heavily influenced by Zealot thought.

John 18:10-11

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹ At that, Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword away! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?"

Malchus - The chief servant to the high priest. He probably took care of the High Priest's garments, preparing things beforehand for the High Priest. He could enter into the temple and help offer the sacrifices as an extension of the High Priest's ministry. He could NOT enter into the Holy of Holies, but he served as the Administrator of the Temple.

Leviticus 21:18-21

¹⁸ No man who has any defect is to come near: no man who is blind, lame, facially disfigured, or deformed; ¹⁹ no man who has a broken foot or hand, ²⁰ or who is a hunchback or a dwarf, or who has an eye defect, a festering rash, scabs, or a crushed testicle. ²¹ No descendant of the priest

Aaron who has a defect is to come near to present the food offerings to the LORD. He has a defect and is not to come near to present the food of his God.

God lays out the rules that if you have any deformity, you cannot come into the Temple.

So when Peter lops off Malchus's ear, it's disgraceful, it's shaming him, It's also crippling Malchus's ministry.

Because of his deformity now, he cannot do what he's supposed to do according to Leviticus 21.

The reason Jesus heals Malchus's ear is not only because he's displaying compassion to Malchus. He's also saving Peter's life. Peter could have easily been tried for stirring up a riot against Rome and crucified along with Jesus as a criminal.

Malchus's name comes from the Hebrew word "Melek" which means, "King"

So you have the picture here of Melchus, the servant King, having his ear and hearing completely restored by Jesus the true servant King.

Jesus immediately says, "¹¹ At that, Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword away! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?"

It's not by the sword that His Kingdom will advance. It's by being a peacemaker. It's by bringing peace to the world around us.

To be a peacemaker, you have to be a person of humility. You have to be someone who is un-offendable, you have to lay down your pride and seek peace.

Philippians 2:6-11

⁶ who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. ⁷ Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, ⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— in heaven and on earth and under the earth— ¹¹ and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus is our example, a perfect example of peacemaker. Peacemakers thrive in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Romans 16:17-18

¹⁷ Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who create divisions and obstacles contrary to the teaching that you learned. Avoid them, ¹⁸ because such people do not

serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites. They deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting with smooth talk and flattering words.

Proverbs 6:16-19

¹⁶ The LORD hates six things; in fact, seven are detestable to him: ¹⁷ arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet eager to run to evil, ¹⁹ a lying witness who gives false testimony, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers.

It is satan who kindles strife between brothers and then sits back and warms himself in the fire.

So who do you need to seek reconciliation with? Who is it that you need to forgive for wronging you? Where can you bring peace to the world around you this week?