

A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR A NEW KINGDOM

Matthew 5 : 9 – “Peacemaker” - the Family Signature

Scriptures: Numbers 6:24ff; Isaiah 54:1-10; Romans 15:5-13

It is not Peace Lovers who are in view, but Peace Makers.

What is Peace?

Eirene (Greek) corresponds to various Hebrew words which embrace the general area of meaning of rest, safety, freedom from care, and trustfulness. Peace lassoes all the previous blessings in Numbers 6:24ff and then states: “So shall they put my name on the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

The primary Hebrew word used is Shalom. Shalom is not so much the opposite of war, as of any disturbance in the communal well-being of the nation. It covers well-being in the widest sense: contentedness; good relations; salvation.

How do we make Peace?

Following Christ’s Example:

- Love your enemies
- Refuse to be provoked
- Be a lightening rod

Be Reflective and not Reflexive:

- Watch that tongue!
- Be sensitive and prepared to take the initiative

THE STATE OF THE HEART

OUTSIDE THE STADIUM

INDIFFERENCE

Others are
OBJECTS
Obstacles
Vehicles
Inconveniences
Irrelevancies
Get My Way
“I – it”

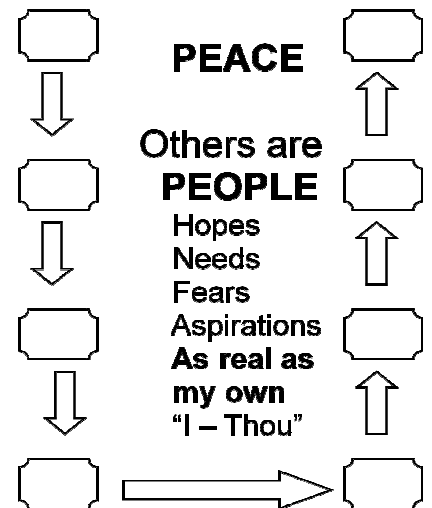
**HOW MISERABLE!
THE INDIFFERENT!**

INSIDE THE STADIUM

PEACE

Others are
PEOPLE
Hopes
Needs
Fears
Aspirations
**As real as
my own**
“I – Thou”

**HOW BLESSED!
THE PEACEMAKERS!**



We respond more to the state of the heart, than to words

What is the Bliss Peace Makers Enjoy?

They are not just named, but called

They are given a standing of dignity accorded by God Himself

A son reflects his family ties

REFLECTIONS

MONDAY:

Numbers 16 : 22 – 27

Take note of how this blessing builds to a climax. What are the steps that lead to the ultimate blessing? Who imparts the peace? Whose name is “called” over the nation by the Priests?

TUESDAY:

Psalms 4 : 1 – 8

This is a prayer for relief from what in v 1? In other words, it is a longing for peace. How are we counselled to handle our anger in vv 3 – 4? Why is trust considered a sacrifice in v 5? What is the outcome of tackling your distress in this way according to v 8?

WEDNESDAY:

Isaiah 54 : 1 – 10

What according to v 10, is the focus of this passage? What spiritual condition is in mind in vv 1 and 6 – 8? What is God’s response in vv 5 – 7? Verse 2 tells how you should prepare for God’s blessing! In what way are you personally preparing to strengthen the stakes to enlarge your tent – be specific about some area that God is challenging.

THURSDAY:

Ephesians 2 : 11 – 22

Who is our peace? How did He make peace? What is abolished between us on the human level? And between God and man? Do you have enmity against anyone? What is required of you? DO IT!

FRIDAY:

Romans 14 : 1 – 23

Instead of judging (v 12 tells us to leave it with the Lord) we must put v 19 into practice. What, in vv 5 – 8 is the personal motivation and attitude that must govern all of life?

SATURDAY:

Hebrews 12 : 14 – 28

Peace and Holiness are intimate companions – they feed each other. To what is bitterness compared in v 15? What do roots do? A root of bitterness sending out its runners will rob you and the community of what? What do you personally miss out on in these circumstances?

A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR A NEW KINGDOM
The Beatitudes

8 Pillars in God's Stadium of Blessing

Poor in Spirit
Theirs the Kingdom

1

8

Persecuted
Great Reward

Mourn
Comforted

2

7

Peacemakers
God's Children

Meek
Inherit Promise

3

6

Pure in Heart
See God

**Hungry & Thirsty
For Righteousness**
Satisfied

4

5

Merciful
Find Mercy

Matthew 5 : 10 - 12 – The Extreme Bliss of the Blood Stained Way
Scriptures: Romans 8 : 18 - 28

The long war against God is a sickening saga.

Persecution is a Promise from God

“Persecution is the clash between two value systems” John Stott

The Promise is Qualified

“ . . . Because of righteousness”

“ . . . They falsely say all kinds of evil against you”

“ . . . Because of me”

The Promise is for Supreme Bliss

We share in Christ's purpose and Joy (Hebrews 12 : 2)

We respond with Christ's attitude “rejoice and be glad.”

Suffering is productive (Romans 5 : 1- 5)

It opens the door for the gospel.

Great is your reward in heaven

REFLECTIONS

MONDAY:

Isaiah 51 : 1 - 16

How are God's people described in v 7? What response should they expect in the same verse? How are they encouraged in v 8? What prayer should accompany our lives of righteousness in vv 9 – 11? Use the promises of vv 11 – 16 as the basis of your prayer time.

TUESDAY:

John 15 : 18 – 16 : 4

How does the Lord prepare us for the hatred of the world in vv 18 – 25? What is promised as help in v 26?

WEDNESDAY: 1 Peter 4 : 1 - 19

How do vv 1 – 11 contrast pagan and Christian living? How do you stack up? Vv 12 – 19 describe what happens as a result. Be sure to understand v 14 thoroughly. Determine to respond in the way v 19 describes.

THURSDAY: Acts 6 : 8 – 15; and 7 : 54 – 8 : 1

How does 6 : 10 demonstrate the truth of Isaiah 51 : 16? Where does Stephen look in his time of persecution in 7 : 55? How does God encourage Stephen in 7 : 56? Where do your thoughts go when you experience pressure?

FRIDAY: 2 Timothy 3 : 1 - 17

How are the last days characterized? Which of these things are distinguishable in our society? Are any to be found in you? What mechanism does Paul offer for the avoidance of being caught up in the spirit of the world? How do you stack up?

SATURDAY: Hebrews 10 : 19 - 39

What is at the heart of the passage in vv 32 – 33? How do vv 19 – 23 encourage your heart in times of pressure? What effect did that have on you in v 34? How can you implement vv 24 – 25 in the light of v 23? What important truths in vv 35 – 39 should you ponder and digest?