

Briefing Document: Sermon on the Mount – Happy Are the Peacemakers

Lesson 35 – August 17, 2025

This briefing document summarizes the key themes, ideas, and facts presented in the sermon “*The Sermon on the Mount – Happy Are the Peacemakers*.” The message focuses on the biblical concept of peacemaking in **Matthew 5**, contrasting it with worldly definitions of peace.

I. Core Message: Redefining Biblical Peace

The central argument is that **biblical peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the active presence of righteousness** that produces right relationships.

- *“Peace is not the absence of conflict as much as it is the presence of righteousness that causes right relationships.”*
- *“Peace is not just stopping the war. Peace is creating the righteousness that brings the two parties together so that they might in fact love each other.”*
- *“Peacemakers are those who not only call a truce. They are those that are able to get those in conflict to embrace one another.”*

Peace is inseparable from holiness, purity, and truth:

- *“Peace is never sought out at the expense of righteousness.”*
 - *“You cannot divorce peace from holiness. You cannot divorce peace from purity. You cannot divorce peace from righteousness.”*
 - *“Where there is real peace there will be righteousness. Where there is real peace there will be holiness. Where there is real peace there will be purity because in those things the issues can be resolved.”*
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II. The Role of the Peacemaker: Agent of Truth and Contention

Peacemakers are not passive but are called to be **aggressive agents of truth**, even if it creates temporary strife or division.

- *“Being peacemakers has to mean that you have to be aggressive.”*
- *“We do not only stop the war, we also replace the war with the righteousness of God.”*

Avoiding offense is not true peacemaking:

- *“Being a peacemaker isn’t saying, ‘Well, I certainly don’t want to offend anyone...’ That’s not making peace. That’s making a truce.”*

Scripture supports this reality:

- **Matthew 10:34** – *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.”*
- **Luke 12:51** – *“Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.”*

The message emphasized:

- *“If you’re going to deal with the truth, beloved, anytime you speak the truth into a non-believer’s life you’re going to be a divider. You’re going to be a disturber. You’re going to be a disruptor.”*
- *“When the conflict is resolved by faith in Jesus Christ then there can be real peace.”*

III. The Source of Peace: Jesus Christ

The sermon repeatedly identifies **Jesus Christ as the only true source of peace**, both personally and universally.

- *“That peace was reinstated at the cross of Jesus Christ... peace became a reality as He died on the cross because Jesus Christ became your peace. Amen.”*
- *“Since the Lord Jesus Christ has provided us His peace, there can now be peace in the heart of any man or woman who comes to know Him.”*
- *“Someday Jesus will come again. And when He comes again, there will be peace—In fact, one of His titles will be the Prince of Peace, and He’ll establish a kingdom of peace which will finally go into an eternal age of peace.”*

Closing Prayer: *“You can’t know peace unless you know Jesus.”*

IV. Obstacles to Peace: Satan and Disobedience

The lack of peace in the world is attributed to both **Satan’s opposition and human disobedience**.

- *“The reason that there is no peace now is because of two things. First of all in this world the opposition... of Satan. Secondly the... disobedience of men.”*
 - *“The fall of the angels and the fall of man cause the world without any peace.”*
 - *“You can only have peace with someone if they want to have peace with you. Peace is a two-way street, and as long as they will have no peace, there will be no peace.”*
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V. Practical Applications and Call to Action

Christians are called to **actively pursue peacemaking through evangelism.**

- *“God has designated a group of people that He calls peacemakers.”*
- *“You and I are to be His agents in this world. And we are here to make peace—eternal peace.”*

The message challenged complacency:

- *“We want to sit in church complacently week after week and do nothing to change the world around us.”*

Connection to evangelism:

- *“You want to stop ladies from having to go to the We Care Pregnancy Center because they’re considering an abortion? Lead them to the Lord one by one by one. Amen.”*
- *“Beloved if you want peace in the world, you can do only one thing—You’ve got to preach Jesus.”*

Christians must:

- *“Contend earnestly for the faith” (Jude 3)*
 - Proclaim Jesus Christ as the only true peace-giver.
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VI. Other Notable Elements and Information

- **Sermon Series Context:** This was *Lesson 35* in the Sermon on the Mount series (*Matthew 5: Blessed are the Peacemakers*).

- **Church Announcements:** Fundraiser for the *We Care Pregnancy Center* (September 13), outreach meetings, women's fellowship, and children's ministry updates.
 - **Worship Elements:** Congregational singing included hymns and praise songs.
 - **Humor/Anecdotes:** The speaker used lighthearted stories (Amazon deliveries, furniture polish, Hokey Pokey, Air Force experiences) to connect with the audience.
 - **Spiritual Maturity:** Encouraged believers to move beyond complacency, growing from "little children" to strong, faithful disciples (1 John).
 - **Personal Confession:** The pastor admitted to physical struggles and the spiritual weight of preaching.
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✅ **Summary:** The sermon emphasized that true peace is rooted in righteousness and only possible through Jesus Christ. Christians must engage as peacemakers by proclaiming truth, even when it brings conflict, because lasting peace comes only through the cross.