



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

DOXA CHURCH

FLOURISHING ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

“Blessed [Flourishing] are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”
Matthew 5:9

DISCOVER

This week in our Flourishing series, Pastor Justin taught from Matthew 5:10, which says, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons (and daughters) of God.” For Jesus, peacemaking was a whole lot more than simply passively avoiding conflict. The greek word for peace, “eirene” is the translation of the Hebrew word “shalom”, which is packed with redemptive meaning. Shalom is God’s vision for unity and wholeness throughout his creation. Thus, peacemaking is the active work of creating shalom wherever we find ourselves.

Pastor Justin said that there are three keys to peacemaking, (1) making peace with God, (2) declaring war and (3) sacrificing for the cause. To expand on those ideas, only those who have made peace with God, meaning that they have identified their deep need as a result of sin and relied upon the sacrificial work of Christ for their reconciliation with the Father. It is only those who have really tasted the goodness of salvation that can really live “cross-shaped” lives and be peacemakers because the act of peacemaking requires a reenactment of the cross itself.

Part 2, declaring war is having the courage to name the brokenness in the world as such, not in judgment but in order to identify the true source of the pain around us. Those who love the idea of “calling out sin” should withhold judgment until they hear, part 3! In order to bring peace, Christians have to follow Christ all the way to the cross. We cannot only declare war, but we have to be willing to enter into it sacrificially the way Jesus did. This is the vision of the peacemaker, someone who is willing to be so shaped by Christ’s work on the cross, that they begin to see the world in a cross-shaped way, as deeply broken by sin but in need of love and sacrifice, not judgement and separation.

NURTURE

- 1 We are using the word “flourishing” instead of blessed during this series to reflect the fact that the Beatitudes are Jesus describing the way things out to be and thus, the path to try human flourishing, instead of a transaction of blessing. Does this change the way you read the Beatitudes? If so, how?
- 2 We defined peacemaking as working to create shalom within the spheres of dominion we’ve been given. How is this different than the world’s definition of peace? Is it more difficult? More attractive?
- 3 Can only Christians be peacemakers? Why or why not?
- 4 What does it mean to declare war in your life? What are some things around you that need to be declared as war?
- 5 Peacemaking requires sacrifice, how can you sacrifice to bring peace to the areas of war you identified above?

ACT

- 1 Do the beatitudes work? What seems to dictate whether or not they work? What happens to your faith and confidence in Jesus when they don’t work?
- 2 What are some of the implications of only pursuing a worldly vision of peace? What’s at stake? What is left undone?
- 3 How has your life been shaped by the cross? How does it continue to be shaped by it?
- 4 How will you declare war this week?
- 5 How will you sacrifice to bring peace this week?