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GOD'S PEACEMAKERS

Matt. 5:9

Pick up the newspaper - Wars  
Political corruption -  
Lock & Paul

Introduction: one woman

weeps over her child's behavior  
became see in children  
Her husband is cold toward her  
without a 3 children to repair alone -  
Mild is a battlefield

We might introduce our message by asking the question - why do we need peace? And you immediately would think of the world, the state of the world, the world is proud and sins without tears. There is unrest in the hearts of men, and on every hand we find people at warfare.

Trouble has been here since the time of the beginning of man. When Cain was carried away by his envy and he murdered his brother Able.

Professor Quincey Wright in a study of war, shows that in 461 years - from 1480 to 1941 - the various nations experienced war as follows.

- Great Britain - 78 wars
- France - 71 wars
- Spain - 64 wars
- Russia - 61 wars
- Austria - 52 wars
- Germany - 23 wars
- China - 11 wars
- Japan - 9 wars
- United States - 13 wars

110 wars were fought against the Indians often ruthlessly - within the United States.

In this published account in 1955, we have no problem seeing the great need for some peace making.

Someone has pointed out that within the last 4,000 years there has been less than 300 years of peace.

Every man tonight would admit there is something seriously wrong in the world and with so much destruction.

You know what the chief industry of the world is - among all nations. It is the industry of war. Bigger armies, deadlier weapons. Each nation is trying to out do the other.

There is no real peace anywhere in the world tonight. And where they do not have active warfare, we experience continued cold warfare. We know that God has never been an enemy of man. But man became an enemy of God.

And the revolt was way back, in the Garden of Eden.  
*Jordan Fighting - family of 5 shot Calif - Terrorists Murder in Canada.*

I. How Are Peacemakers Made

We get back to this Beatitude. Now peace keepers is hard enough. But to be a peace maker -- to bring others together, to settle discord, is something else. This is one of the things that is a mystery to many people about the Southern Baptist Convention, with it's over 10 million people.

That they stay together while many other groups splinter up into bits. But they seem to remain together. Evidently, there must be some peace makers

among us. And they must be extra ordinary men. Because of the size and the unique work.

*15th They adduced me 2nd They cont. and he 3rd They scandalized me!*

As we think of how these peace makers are made - we must begin at the

root of the situation.

*Someone said to a colored lady who was attending a preacher while he played golf - "Does the preacher say anything when he misses the ball?"*

There can be but one answer - a brief spiritual experience. Now, when we think of people who have this peace, and those who love the business of

peace making -- we find out how peace is made.

*He replied, "Now watch, he don't say nothing, but when he spits the grass don't grow no more!"*

No man can really bring others to peace when he does not possess it and have a passion for it.

Peace making is the outcome of the love of God at work in a man's heart. There is no substitutue for the peace which Christ made on the cross with His blood. Therefore, a peace maker has first made peace with God. There is no peace, saith the Lord to the wicked. A quote from Isaiah. He went on to say, they know not. And there is no judgement in their going. They had a conflict with God and until they first had an armistice with God, they could not be at peace with their fellow-men.

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II. The Next Question - What Is This Peace?

Now people that know very little of the depth of Christianity have a fancy that there are many appeals to challenge men to come to peace. But the true peace is that we have been reconciled unto God - that is, we have blotted out the war that has been going on in our souls. And we get into relationship - right relation - with God.

Most individuals that complain about Christians and complain about the church and other people, need first to get this happy relationship established with God. Because if a man is going to carry this message of reconciliation - he must first be at peace with God.

Now any fool can stick a match into a haystack and make it blaze. It is easy to promote strife. There is malice in all. There is gossip that has it's day. There are things that are easy to start a fire with. But this kind of peace we are talking about is a reconciling peace. And it is not one

that is going to spread the fire.

Now there are many people who believe that by armies and swords and military might, we could crush Europe or Asia. And by some wild scheme - and is on foot in Canada and our country today - great movements of revolutions. On every hand. And these people claim they are searching for some kind of settlement or rights or equality - or something that they cannot quite grasp.

Now this peace is something far more than just abolishing strife. It is something that will cause men and nations to live peaceably.

Nations can be peaceable without having peace in a real sense.

Now the Roman Empire brought about peace within her borders. But she was not a peace maker according to Jesus. Her subjects had not lost the will to fight. They kept peace through fear. They were not at war but they had a dread of Rome that her power might swallow them up.

The same things is true about Hitler. He wanted peace - somebody said that Hitler wanted peace. He wanted peace in Hungry, Russia, France and England and Italy. He wanted peace everywhere. But it was his kind of way of having peace, through fear.

The same thing is true of dogs that fight. They may be at peace and may be settled for awhile - but it maybe because they haven't any strength left to fight anymore.

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How 12017  
"a lie has a short life -5-  
But truth lives forever -

This Beatitude truly is very humbling. Because it is entirely new and different. The natural man cannot put this into practice. Only a new man can live a new life. Why are there wars in the world. Why is there this constant international tension. Why is there this great threat of war and unhappiness and discord among men.

Nothing else, except sin. And the peacemaker has become different from what he was. This is a matter of theology. Our troubles is human lust and greed, selfishness, self-centeredness.

Why is there so much trouble, and difficulty in maintaining peace in the world tonight. Think of the endless international conferences that have been held. In the past 20 years - to try to produce peace. Think of the countless days and hours in Paris - for peace talks. Why have they all failed. And why are we now coming to the state when very few people seem to have any confidence in any kind of confidence or conference that men may choose to hold. What is the explanation of all of this.

*We Have a Kissinger Program of Peace going on Tonight  
Henry is being Exchanged Between Nixon & McVannam for Doc Doc  
I believe it's Lee Doc*

We have hit the philosophy of the Russians on peace. It resembles the twist - sometimes it is here - and sometimes it is there.

Why did the League of Nations fail. Why does the United Nations organization seem to be failing. What is the matter. Is the trouble political. Is the trouble economic. Is the trouble social.

The trouble is primarily theological. We must come to recognize that the trouble has an origin and that we must go to the source. The essential trouble will remain there as long as we fail to understand it.

Even in our churches sometimes we preach about these human efforts - league of nations, United Nations, but it contradicts the Bible. Now I would not have you misunderstand what I am saying. I am not saying that we should not make all of these efforts internationally. But what I believe is, that the man who pins his faith on these things - is a man who has little regard for the Scripture.

According to the Scripture, the trouble is in the heart. In the heart of man - and nothing but a new heart can possibly bring a man through this is the kind of peace. We'll have to understand that evil thoughts of murder - jealousy, and envy. Now while these things are in a man's heart, there will be no peace. And this is the kind of peace that we are speaking of. And it is the kind of peace we need in this present hour and in this modern world. The New Testament kind. Now the man who knows this is not surprised that there are wars, rumors of wars, etc. If you are a Christian.

### I II. The Qualities of a Peacemaker

When Jesus makes this statement - he naturally infers that there are some peace breakers. But I think there are certain things, certain qualities that we will find in the individual that is a peace maker.

First, (a pure heart.) He is going to see God. John. 5:19. When Jesus stepped from the throne and the angels sang and told of peace on earth and good will towards men, we have one of the great examples. He died on the cross. And why is he doing this.

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The hearts of men have unrest. They are tossed by the sea and the storms of life. And Jesus said peace be still. One of the qualities is a pure heart and remembering that you are limited according to as far as your own resources go.

2 Second, (sacrifice.) This is a quality. God has made peace and to do so - did it at an awful sacrifice. This was such a wonderful world and God was willing to pay this great price. And how can we ever understand the great debts of the cross. The death of Christ met all of the broken laws in sin.

If we are going to be a peace maker - we too must make some sacrifices. We must get rid of our pride and the strife that is within our hearts, and we must be willing to re-adjust and to repair some of the broken relations.

Jesus speaks of this as being a positive work. Therefore, it is going to take a sacrifice on your part and on mine. With a wide spread strife, discord, hate, and misunderstanding. We need this great quality today.

The Prodigal Son was willing to sacrifice his pride to make his way out of the far country back to a better place. He had dreamed of this and of course he finally discovered his way to peace in his heart and in his soul.

This great quality will come in when there is discord between man and man. Between groups, racial groups, nations. Hatred and enmity are very expensive things. I think hatred is a big cost. Because a man forfeits all of his love and joy.

3 Now we come to the third quality - and that is, peace must be at the center. It must be at the very heart of life. This is on the positive side.

## Qualities of a Peacemaker

1. Pure in heart
2. Keel at center of his life

-8-

There is great need in the world for a number of peacemakers. If only we were all peace makers, there would be no problem. Now this quality does not mean that you are going to make peace at any price. You are not going to have any sense of justice or righteousness. It is not that you are going to be nice all the time.

It is not that you are going to postpone war. You are going to make peace but it does not solve the problem.

This quality is that which we say is peaceable. For a quarrelling person cannot be a peace maker. He desires peace and he wants peace. He has a pure heart. And before you can be a peace maker - you must get a new view of yourself. You must be sensitive and not defensive. And you must not always think of everything in terms of the effect that it will have upon you. Therefore, that is going to mean that you will have this quality in your life.

#### IV. Where Are We To Be Peacemakers

Where can we serve - where can we perform, this wonderful ministry.

1- First - we can be peacemakers in the world. We can advocate peace between the nations - a channel or pipe line for good understanding.

It has been estimated that the total casualties of war has been more than 30 million human lives - and so many of the choisiest.

Where are you going young fellow, my lad

On this glittering mourn of May

I'm going to join the colors Dad



They are wanting men, they say.  
But you are only a boy, young fellow, my lad  
You are not obliged to go  
I'm 17 1/4 Dad  
And ever so strong you know.  
So you are off to France, young fellow, my lad  
And you are looking so fit and bright  
I'm dreadfully sorry to leave you Dad  
But I feel that I am doing right.

God bless you and keep you, young fellow, my lad  
And you are all of my life you know  
Don't you worry, I'll soon be back, dear Dad  
And I'm awfully proud to go.

What is the matter young fellow, my lad  
No letter again today  
And why did the postman look so sad  
And sigh as he turned away.

I heard them say that we had gained new ground  
But a terrible price we paid,  
God, grant my boy, that you are safe and sound  
But oh, I'm afraid, afraid.

They have told me the truth, young fellow, my lad  
And you'll never come home again  
Oh God, the dreams and the dreams I had  
AND the hopes I've nursed in vain.

For you passed in the night, young fellow, my lad  
 But you proved in that terrible test  
 Of the bursting shell and the battle Hell  
 That my boy was one of the best.

1 War is always taking the best and taking them and squandering their lives.

And peace will (never come) by itself - peace must be made. We drift in the war but if peace is ever to be realized, it must come from persistent sacrificial effort. We must make it. Every soul must become a peace maker.

2 Second, we can promote peace in our work. When we look at the world today - the labor unions, management, and all the disputes. Here is a good place for a man to be a peacemaker.

*None told me that. His supervisor is unreasonable. I have 10 under me - But she hangs on a plan - That's why get things done -*

3 Third, in your community. This is a place where you can begin - where you live. The place where you live is shot through with slander and gossip - some of it is almost unbearable. We see the works of the flesh - Gal. 5:19-21.

And strife is one of the things listed there. Rom 12:17-18 "Stop returning evil for evil

*to anyone. Always see to it that your affairs are right in the sight of everyone. If possible, so far as it depends on you live in peace with everyone."*

It is very sad that in a community, people fear going out at night because of the strife and the crime that is found in the streets.

Jer. 9:8 *Everyone speaketh peaceably to his neighbour*

4 Fourth, in your church. I think the carnal disputes right in your church is a place where you can put this in action. Jesus, many times, encouraged people in peace making. The reverse is true - often in our churches. We take Jesus out of our churches. We do not let him have a place. And these little disputes - little useless things that crop up in the church, cause a great deal

of trouble.

I once read the story of two men who were having great trouble about an old line fence. They were having a dispute and finally one of them decided that they ought to settle it. And that they would make peace and they brought the Bible. And this neighbor handed his Bible to his enemy - and he said, John you read and I'll pray. We must be friends. And we must make peace. John fumbled for his glasses and he couldn't find them - take mine said the peace loving neighbor. After they had read the Word and prayed together - they arose and embraced each other. John handed the Bible back and also his neighbor's glasses - and through tears he said, John, that old line fence looks different through your glasses.

When we have the peace of God, we can see things through the other man's glasses. And by doing so, we can often make peace instead of strife.

5 Fifth, you can be a peacemaker in the home. In the days of transportation, clubs, and parties - where the basic unit of the family is being torn apart and quarrels result.

*Problem in his home 3 mo ago  
Man  
This week  
hand  
Pup  
Bitter now  
going to work out*

Many couples cannot go even a few days without quarrels. And most of the time the big reason is - their hearts are not right - and they have stopped attending church, ceased praying, and they lack the peace of God in their house.

How many couples today feel they need a good home. A peaceful home. Most couples think the big thing they need today is better jobs, better neighborhood

- a multitude of things different from what Jesus is talking about here, in

*Man & Wife had fight - The young Man Brought lovely bouquet of flowers!  
this Sermon on the Mount. upon Presentation - she threw her things about him  
for a good long kiss - He grabbed his hat & started for the door. She said  
Arrangement "I'll hope I didn't offend you" "No, indeed" He replied,  
"I'm just going for more flowers" - God will pour blessing after blessing  
upon couple like that!*

V. What methods are we going to use in peacemaking

1- Do not seek to avenge. So many people think of their adversary in a hostile sort of way. If there is anything that you can do to help the situation. It may be a cost to you or a little trouble - but the best thing to do is to take the time to do it.

→ Many times you suffer wrong. Somebody misunderstands you - somebody has ill will. Now the method to get rid of that - to make peace - is not saying I am going to get even.

It is not going to be made through hate - that is very obvious.

We have an idea today that the way we are going to make peace with our neighbors is for every man to carry a switchblade knife or haul around a six-shooter, or maybe mount up a cannon in his front yard - and in that way, he can defend himself, against his neighbors. But I don't think that is what Jesus is talking about here. Because this is not the Christian attitude. That is the pagan way to go about it. And of all the people tonight searching for peace - we cannot bring about peace between races - or even between nations by killing each other or killing among your own race. You really can't wage a war that will put an end to all wars. There are multitudes of people who honestly feel and they have persuaded themselves that they have such hatred born in them that they think this is the way to do it. But all this strife is wrong.

*Power oil on troubled water - try to be charitable.  
Has been 1800 years since Jesus said "Reach out your hand to all men."  
Men do not gather grapes from thorns. Well towards all men."*

So you are not going to defend yourself - that is not the proper way of being a peacemaker.

2. Pour oil upon troubled water. I think the Scripture would tell us that we ought to make a habit of pouring oil - not suggesting suspicion - not to be always in the middle of discord. But try to be charitable and put a loving construction upon things. Often a little new light would help us. We might discover what action we are to take. So I think this could be used when people think about being a peace maker.

3. Third, give peaceful counsel. The progress of peace is sometimes slow - whether we are talking to people or whether we are talking to nations.

It has been probably 1800 years since the angels sang - Peace on Earth, Good Will Towards Men. And still there is not peace in the world. The nations of this world according to the daily newspapers are still in a struggle.

When you look into some of our churches - you see people who profess their own Jesus Christ, and you see such discord and jealousy. There is plenty of peace for the sons of peace to do everywhere.

We must first put ourselves in the right relationship with Jesus Christ. The supreme peacemaker - the prince of peace. And Jesus said, he that is not for me, is against me. He that scattereth, gathereth not, scattereth abroad. Now that is a startling declaration - those that are not for him are against him.

Jesus said, men who were really not doing his work were fighting against him. And they were opposing his work. And they were not promoting peace. But promoting discord and misunderstanding.

Preacher "my dear man I'm afraid you are going to die; you better make your peace with God" To the preacher's joy "Sir; make my Peace with God - That was made for me upon Calvary's cross 1800 yrs ago And I al know it"

Fourth, the final method is through reconciliation.

That is it - To have your Peace made by blood of Christ - a Peace That can never be broken

reconciliation through the hearts of men. Those who have loved God and brought back to him. Now your peace plan will return to you if you attempt to do it in your own strength. It is only through the reconciliation of Jesus Christ that we can have this peace about which he speaks of here.

You must swift to hear, slow to speak, and what if everybody were like you. What would the situation be in this world. How long would we have peace.

In any place? Col 1:20 "God made Peace through his son's blood on the cross And so brought back to himself ALL things, both on earth & in Heaven"

Fifth, leave it with God.

This to me, is a peace making that Jesus calls for us to do. Do the best you can with it and leave the rest in the hands of God. If you really can't work out peace in certain situations - then turn it over to God and let God handle it.

J.M. Morris born Campbell Co Va Feb 15, 1857 - D. Feb 4, 1891 (84) - 12 yr Paddy kid - support mother had only 30 days schooling - Evening candle, morning Bark study - English grammar, arithmetic, algebra without a teacher - Cotton patch work came down - glory to God - Beautiful sky - alone, near God. Preaching - "we had a good meeting; Morris was in the Cotton patch today. Crossed Plains in by cart. Iowa - Kansas - mo - Revivals Month time - Death - "I die in peace with all men VI. The Reward Of Peacemaking al shall soon be with angels, all al want to be in a little twinkling star"

First, you are called peacemakers by men.

To me this is part of the reward Brevard on farm, Plain Prof

- to be called a peacemaker, among men. And I think that you will have a place

Rev McLaren "I am gathering together all my papers, my sermons, my good deeds, Bad deeds & I'm going to throw them all overboard and swim to glory on the free plank of grace."

Second, you will be called sons of God by Christ.

Luke 7:50 "But Jesus said to the woman 'Your faith hath saved you; go in peace' Now this comes to help us get the true meaning that I have been trying

to emphasize all the way through this message. Everything is founded upon sons of God. Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us. That we should be called the sons of God.

God is going to recognize us as his child, and as his likeness.