



A just weight
and balance



are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the
peacemakers:
for they shall be
called the
children of God.

- This is the seventh step of the golden ladder which leads to blessedness.

- It would have been quite misleading had our Lord said **"Blessed are the honest."**

or

"Blessed is the man who tells no lies."

- These common virtues are quite indispensable but

our Lord is seeking something far greater.

- There must be something beyond these:
 - First a sense of need of something far higher and better,
 - Then a hungering and thirsting after it,
 - Then a reward for attaining it.

- The first word of every beatitude is "**Blessed**".
 - The King of Heaven **has come to bless.**
 - There is no thunder nor lightning nor tempest on this mount;
all is calm and peaceful
as eternal truths are revealed.

- Here is a kingdom which is to secure the well-being of all who belong to it.

- *"eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, ... the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him,"*

- "Blessed,"
the key-note of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

- As Jesus proceeds to show wherein this blessedness is to be found, we are struck by the originality of the conception.
- Mankind has the mistaken idea that blessedness is found in “wealth”.

- But Jesus is revealing a new way to

“**Blessedness**”

that is available to all.

- Reminding us that

“***a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses.***”

- What a different world this would be if only the teaching of Christ on this one subject were heartily accepted.
- Then should we see indeed a kingdom of heaven upon earth.

- The principles of peacemaking **are seen in the Trinity:**

- the **God** of Peace;
- the **Prince** of Peace;
- the **Spirit** of Peace.
- All the Divine Persons **are active for peace.**

- Christ is the
“Prince of Peace”
(Isaiah 9:6)

- **Breaking down all walls of division between classes and races and individuals, by making them first of all at peace with God.**
(Ephesians 2:14)

- The subject of the sermon on the mount is righteousness of its members.

- To give a clearer conception of this fundamental idea, our Lord speaks of:
 - (1) the citizens
 - (2) the law
 - (3) the conduct
- of the kingdom members.

- But *happiness*
is not
always found
by what
promises
to bring it.

- Let us remember our Lord's admonition to ***“hunger and thirst”*** ***after righteousness.***

- It is this appetite **that will guide us** to true happiness.

It is true that our Lord
considers
“*happiness*”
the chief good,
and promises it continually,
but
he never bids men
make this their
practical aim in life.

On the contrary,
in this very sermon,
so full of reward and
of promise of happiness,
he lays down another
law of conduct:

*"Seek ye first
the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness."*

Happiness

is found

when

“*righteousness*”

is sought.

- Our Lord is in agreement with the instinct of human nature, which craves *happiness*, and sets this as the ultimate end.

- **Things**,
such as **wealth**,
power, **knowledge**,
we seek as a means
to some end
beyond themselves;
- **Happiness**
we seek for its own sake,
and not as a means
to something beyond itself.

- A man does not seek to be happy in order that he may be rich;
- He seeks to be rich in order that he may be happy.

- To say that a man is happy or blessed is just to say that he has attained.
 - He needs nothing more!

- In Hebrew
the word for
“peace”
is
shalom
(**<H7965>**).

- In Hebrew peace is never only a negative state;
- It never means only the absence of trouble;
- In Hebrew peace always means everything which makes for a man's highest good

- When one wishes another Salaam--which is “peace”
he does not mean
that he wishes
for the other
only the absence
of evil things;
- He wishes for him
all good things.

- In the Bible peace means..
- not only freedom from all trouble;
 - it means enjoyment of all good.

- Let it be noted
what this beatitude
is saying.

- The blessing is
on the peace-makers,

- not necessarily
on the peace-lovers.

- It very often happens that if a man loves peace in the wrong way, he succeeds in making trouble and not peace.

- We may, for instance, allow a threatening and dangerous situation to develop, and our defense is that for peace's sake we do not want to take any action.

- Are we making peace when we ignore a situation that is only to erupt again in the future.

- The peace which the Bible calls blessed does not come from the evasion of issues;
 - it comes from
 - facing them,
 - dealing with them,
 - and conquering them.

- What this beatitude demands is not the passive acceptance of things because we are afraid of the trouble of doing anything about them,
- but the active facing of things, and the making of peace, even when the way to peace is through struggle

- The Apostle Paul was a “**peacemaker**” even when he confronted the Apostle Peter.
- Gal 2:11 ***But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.***
- 2:12 ***For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.***

- The King James Version says that the peace-makers shall be called the **“children of God”**;
- the Greek more literally is that the peace-makers will be called the **“sons of God”**.

- It has been suggested that, since **shalom** (<H7965>) means everything which **makes for a man's highest good,** this beatitude means:
 - Blessed are those who make this world a better place for all men to live in.

- Abraham Lincoln once said:
"Die when I may, I would like it to be said of me, that I always pulled up a weed and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow."
- This then would be the beatitude of those who have lifted the world a little further on.

No one preaches
self sacrifice
as our Lord does;

No one goes the same length in requiring
that we shall
lay down life itself for others.

But with what argument
does he induce us to do so?

By assuring us that he that
loses his life, the same shall save it.³⁸

- Some take this beatitude in a purely spiritual sense, and held that it meant:
 - *Blessed is the man who makes peace in his own heart and in his own soul.*

- Before one can become a true peacemakers and be entitled to this beatitude, they must seek and obtain inward peace for themselves.
 - (Eph 2:13-17).

- In every one of us there is **an inner conflict** between good and evil;
- We are always tugged in **two directions at once;** every man is at least to some extent a walking civil war.

- To obtain peace for ourselves and lead others to its possession we must set an example of peace

- Romans 12:18

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

- The Jewish Rabbis held that the highest task which a man can perform is to establish right relationships between man and man.
 - That is what Jesus means.

- There are **trouble-makers** in every **society** and regrettably in some **Church**, and such people are doing the devil's work.

- 1 Corinthians 1:11

*For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are **contentions** among you.*

- The man who divides men is doing the devil's work;
- The man who unites men is doing God's work.

- So, then, this beatitude might read:
- **O the bliss of those who produce right relationships between man and man, for they are doing a Godlike work!**

- Peace must not be bought with the sale of truth.

- Proverbs 23:23

Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

- There are many kinds of false and superficial peace, which the Prince of Peace only comes to break up.

'I came not to send peace on earth, but a sword.'

Matthew 10:34

- Peace can never be purchased by the sacrifice of truth.
- But peace in the truth we, like our Master, must be for ever pursuing.

- The process is dangerous
and likely to be
misunderstood,
for the peacemaker
is often regarded
as an enemy
by both sides
of the quarrel.

- His reward is great

Matthew 5:9

For they shall be

called

sons of God.

- James wrote that the **"wisdom that is from above,"**
is
"first pure",
then
"peaceable"
(James 3:17).

- **Christ** is himself
that **Wisdom**.

- His followers
are first
pure towards God,
peaceable
towards men.

- The work of the peacemaker requires courage.
- For he has to take blows from both sides.

- The
“peacemaker”
partakes of the nature
of his Father
as the God of the Bible is
“the God of peace.”

- Romans 15:33

*Now the God of peace
be with you all. Amen.*

• 2Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brethren...

*Be perfect, be of good
comfort, be of one mind,*

live in peace;

and the God of love

and peace

shall be with you.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23

And may the God of peace himself make you holy in every way; and may your spirit and soul and body be free from all sin at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- The angels say,
“peace on earth”,
Luke 2:14
- The saints say,
“Peace in heaven”
- Hence, the name
“Prince of peace”
 - Isaiah 9:6

***“His name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*”**

- Job 25:2

Dominion and fear are with him, he maketh peace in his high places.

- He rules all things in heaven in peace and harmony;
- The angels obey without any disputing and murmuring.
- The stars and heavenly bodies are in perfect harmony.
- Thus, allowing us to observe the “peace” the God of heaven would have us to have on earth.

- John 20:26

And after eight days again
his disciples were within,
and Thomas with them:
then came Jesus, the doors
being shut, and stood in the
midst,
and said,
Peace be unto you.

- John 14:27

Peace *I leave with you,
my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth,
give I unto you.*

- *Let not your heart be*
troubled,
- *neither let it be* *afraid.*

- The **peace** which **Jesus offers us**
 - No **sorrow**,
 - No **danger**,
- No **suffering** can take it from us..
 - It is **independent** of outward circumstances.
 - It is the **peace** **we desire others to have.**

- Let us note how “peace”
in the family of God.
- Note the names employed by
Scripture to describe
the people of God on earth:
 - “the brotherhood,”
 - “the whole family
in heaven and earth,”
 - “one fold,”
 - “my father's house,” etc.

- Let us note the terms employed by Scripture to describe Satan's people on earth, and the lack of peace suggested by each:

- "enmity,"
- "strife,"
- "divisions,"
- "fightings,"
- "wrath,"
- "unkindness,"
- "malice,"
- "falsehood,"
- wrecking the very thought of peace.

- No man
can bring to others
that which
he does not
possess.

- **Character**

depends on

our state of mind.

- It will be noticed that our Lord deals with character

as the foundation of life.

- Jesus lists
five states of mind

as the bases of character on which
God's “**blessings**” rest:

- 1. **Humility.**
- 2. **Penitence.**
- 3. **Meekness.**
- 4. **Mercifulness.**
- 5. **Purity.**

- One's character will decide one's conduct.

- This was our Lord's constant teaching.

- *Make the tree good, and the fruit will be good.*

- Character is to conduct as the life is to the body.

- Christ **reveals** a kingdom different from that we see, but none the less real.
 - A kingdom in which **there is to be found**
 - **satisfaction** for all the wants the world fails to satisfy,
 - **and a remedy** for all the miseries it inflicts."

- Many never reach happiness, because they neglect to seek the guidelines which our Lord points out as leading to everlasting happiness.

- Question of the hour?
 - How do I stand with regard to the Beatitudes?

**Doors of the church
are open.**

**Spirit & Bride Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17

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