

The Sermon on the Mount

"Walking, talking PeaceMAKERS"

Matthew 5:9 (ESV) — 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Jesus' reaction at His trial

John 18:36 (ESV) — 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

The Kingdom of God

The "kingdom of God" refers to God's reign and rule, both in heaven and on earth. It's not a physical place but a spiritual reality, representing God's active presence and influence in the world. The kingdom encompasses God's love, justice, righteousness, and his relationship with humanity.

The Kingdom of God is more of a "Kin-dom" than an actual kingdom state.

Jesus preached about the Kingdom from the very beginning of His ministry

Mark 1:14–15 (ESV) — 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, **15** and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

The disciples had difficulty understanding the Kingdom of God

Acts 1:6–8 (ESV) — 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" **7** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

We are to be walking, talking Peacemakers, moving in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Notes:

The coming Messiah's commission:

Isaiah 9:6–7 (ESV) — 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah will do the following:

- Establish peace;
- Uphold that peace with justice and righteousness;
- The peace that is established will be forever;
- He will have the authority to do all the above.
- God will make sure this happens.

Kingdom power = the power and authority to establish and uphold peace.

“Peace is the work of justice indirectly, insofar as justice removes the obstacles to peace: but it is the work of charity directly, since charity, according to its very nature, causes peace.” -Thomas Aquinas

In the kingdom of God, peace and justice are linked together through acts of charity

2 Corinthians 13:11 (ESV) — 11 Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

God has entered into an eternal covenant of peace with us

Isaiah 54:10 (ESV) — 10 For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

We are PeaceMAKERS when we enter into a covenant of peace with those around us.

We must see others for what they can be in Christ, not as who they used to be in the world.

People to make a covenant of peace with:

- People I need to make restitution to;
- People I have an outstanding issue that needs to be resolved; and
- People I need to make peace with that I may never get along with.