

# DISCIPLESHIP

Winter 2018 Sermon Series

02.04.18

**Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”**

1.) In what “arenas” of life would you most like to experience some peace? (e.g. family, work, congregation, community, country, etc.)

2.) In English the word “peace” usually refers either to inner tranquility – peace of mind – or to an outer state – the absence of war. “Peace” in the Scripture is a situation of comprehensive welfare. For instance, the biblical word “shalom” conveys the picture of a circle; it means communal well-being in every direction in every relation.

Can you think of anyone (someone you know or someone you’ve heard of or read about) who is this kind of “circle maker?” Someone who brings a sense of community/belonging, seems able to reconcile people, brings a sense of well-being whenever they are around? Describe this person. What kinds of things do they do?

3.) Jesus brought a certain peace, but his ministry was often conflicted. Jesus’ peace frequently had to pass through at least spiritual war with one’s family, the seriously devout (Pharisees), the religious authorities. As a group brainstorm some examples of the way peace shaped Jesus’ ministry. (Here’s a couple of examples: Luke 13:10-17, Luke 19:1-10, John 4:1-42)

**Read Mark 10:46-52**

4.) Jon Huckins and Jer Swigart (Mending the Divides) say that peacemaking involves four things: see, immerse, contend, restore. On Sunday we talked about just the first step: seeing. What do you find surprising about blind Bartimaeus? About Jesus in this story?

5.) What are some ways that we who can physically see, sometimes remain blind?

6.) If you were to pray as Bartimaeus – “Lord, I want to see” – for what would you specifically be asking?

7.) If you heard the Thailand and Belize mission trip reports on Sunday, to what new things were your eyes opened? Tell about an eye-opening experience you have had (maybe on a mission trip or even right here in town).

8.) Some suggestions were made about how to engage in peace-making: pray to see others as Jesus sees others, repent of our commitment to our self-preference and personal importance, ask better questions to discover what is going on with a person, give time to those we typically walk by, and so on. How could your group help you be intentional about following Jesus as a peacemaker this week?

You might want to close your time together with this prayer attributed to St. Francis:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace  
where there is hatred let me sow love  
where there is injury, pardon  
where there is doubt, faith  
where there is despair, hope  
where there is darkness, light  
and where there is sadness, joy.

O divine master grant that I may  
not so much seek to be consoled as to console  
to be understood as to understand  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.