

The Beatitudes

(Lesson 12)

Introduction:

1. Jesus began His Sermon on the Mount by giving "the Beatitudes" (Matthew 5:3-12).
2. In the Beatitudes,:
 - a. Jesus revealed some special blessings that are available to His followers
 - b. Jesus gave His requirements for receiving these blessings.
3. This lesson is a study of the 7th Beatitude -- "*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God*" (Matthew 5:9).

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE TEACHES HOW GOD FEELS ABOUT "PEACE" AND "CONFLICT"
 - A. We learn how God feels about "peace" from Psalm 133.
 - B. We learn how God feels about "conflict" from Proverbs 6:16-19.
 - C. When we understand how God feels about "peace" and "conflict," we can appreciate why . . .
- II. THE NEW TESTAMENT REPEATEDLY TEACHES CHRISTIANS TO PURSUE PEACE
 - A. Romans 12:18
 - B. Romans 14:19
 - C. 1 Thessalonians 5:13b
 - D. Hebrews 12:14
- III. LET US CONSIDER SEVERAL BIBLE CHARACTERS WHO WERE PEACEMAKERS
 - A. Abraham (Genesis 13:7-9)
 - B. Isaac (Genesis 26:17-22)
 - C. The Apostles (Acts 6:1-7)
- IV. INSTRUCTIONS FOR PEACEMAKERS
 - A. Ephesians 4:1-3
 - B. Philippians 2:1-4
 - C. Colossians 3:12-13
 - D. James 3:13-18 (pursue the right kind of wisdom)
 - E. 1 Peter 3:10-11

Conclusion:

1. Being a peacemaker is not always easy.
2. However, those who make peace will receive a great blessing -- "*they shall be called the children of God.*"