

From the Pulpit of the Japanese Baptist Church of North Texas  
July 10, 2016

## Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Matthew 5:9

5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

### 1. Who's the Peacemaker?

Well, the blessedness we learn today is "Blessed are the peacemakers". Jesus told his disciples to be a peacemaker, but before we learn that, let us confirm that Jesus Himself was a peacemaker.

God created this world full of peace and blessings, but as humans made sins and became apart from God, this world became full of quarrels and woes. The human history is a history of wars and it is still the same. Even the leaders from each country get together and hold meetings and make a slogan of "peace to the world", there are still wars and flash points. The eternal peace is a heart's desire of all the human kinds, but humans don't have the ability to achieve it.

God wanted peace more than humans did and He sent Savior Jesus Christ to this world to bring peace on this world. Isaiah 9:6 where they prophesized the birth of Jesus says, "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." Jesus was called "Prince of Peace". This Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled on Christmas. That is why the angels

praised in Luke 2:14, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” The Savior Jesus brought peace with Him.

The peace brought by the Savior is described as follows in Isaiah 11:6-9, “The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.” Here describes the peace that no one can break. This may sound like a fantasy, but when peace is fulfilled by the Savior, the world order will be completely renewed and the Law of the jungle will be changed.

Isaiah 2:4 says, “ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” However, currently, the world is going backward. They are changing plowshares and pruning hooks into swords and spears. Even the people are starved without food, some countries put more money into weapons. But those believe in Jesus never give up world peace. Peacemaker in Greek “εἰρηνεπιτοῦς” is one word because they know that Jesus Christ is the true peacemaker. We, believers, believe that the peace that a true peacemaker, Jesus Christ, promised to us will be

accomplished, receive peace that Jesus had already given to us and live in peace, and wish to receive the blessing of being a peacemaker wherever we live.

## **2. What's the Peace?**

So, we have received “peace” from Jesus, which enable us to live, and what kind of the peace is this? It is “Peace with God”. “Peace with God” is mentioned in everywhere in the Scripture. It is also phrased “redemption”, “forgiveness”, and “reconciliation”. Jesus Christ came to the world as a peacemaker, by the crucifixion and resurrection, he won the “peace with God” for us.

In Romans 5:1 and 11, the “peace with God” is mentioned. “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” “More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” The “Peace with God” is not just a theological theory. It is able to give “peace” and “joy” to believers. The believers may encounter the troubles in their lives and their daily life. However, in this situation, you experience that anxiety is changed to peace, complain is changed to satisfaction, and fear is changed to joy with peace with God.

The Scripture tells us the concrete examples of how to live peacefully with others and how to contribute to world peace. It is filled with the knowledge of our daily life. However, you can not become “peacemaker” by accumulating such wisdoms and knowledge. We are forgiven and redeemed by the cross of Jesus Christ. True peace, satisfaction, and joy are not born in our hearts

unless you know the way of receiving “peace with God”. The true peace does not mean that you can smooth over the troubles or not rock the boat, which are the outward appearance. Though you don’t have peace, satisfaction, and joy inside you, you may be able to survive in this world nicely and avoid the troubles; however, you can not become true “peacemaker”. If your heart does not know the peace with God, you would have fear, dissatisfaction, jealousy, and hate there. Then, the battle is born from them.

However, people who have “peace with God” know that they are loved by God, forgiven their sins, and receiving the blessing of reconciliation. Therefore, they can make peace of their own accord based on the peace they received. It might be small thing, but they warm others’ heart up unconsciously and lead into “world peace” at the end. The people who live with “peace with God” are able to offer the blessing to others; moreover, the blessing is coming back to them, and they can receive the big blessing.

### **3. How to Make Peace?**

The peacemakers are called “sons of God,” and this is such honor and holy blessing. Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” Then, however, we’re going to be the sons of God for reward after we became the peacemakers, aren’t we? Well, the answer is No. In the Sermon on the Mount along with the Beatitudes Jesus taught the people in Matthew 5:16, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” In Matthew 6:8, He said, “Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you

need before you ask him.” Through these verses, Jesus called God “your Father.” He also taught the “Lord Prayer,” chanting “Our Father who art in Heaven.” Jesus taught the people, who have already been the sons of God and whom God knows He is their Father, to be the peacemakers. Thus, it shows the importance of being the peacemakers because you are the believers and transformed into the sons of God, rather than some of qualification terms. You need to be the sons of God through faith to be the peacemakers, in other words.

Next, the phrase of “for they shall be called sons of God,” means that the sons of God will grow up and are going to be the peacemakers, by means of testifying and clarifying more and more that they are the sons of God. “For they shall be called sons of God” doesn’t bring the praise for the peacemakers, but for God, who let the people become the peacemakers. If some people were the troublemakers in their home, schools or offices once, but they are saved and changed into the peacemakers after believing Jesus Christ, we can’t describe how much our God will be praised.

Then, the sons of God bring themselves up as sons of God, referring the figure of Jesus Christ. The growth as sons of God and following Jesus’ way of living is almost identical. If man could be close to the figure of Jesus, they will be peacemakers as well since Jesus was the peacemaker. In Colossians 3:15, it says, “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” Likewise, we shall accept Jesus in our hearts and rely on the peace between God given from Jesus, then we could be growing up as the sons of God and as a result will be the peacemakers like Jesus Christ.

Receiving the peace with God and letting our hearts be ruled in the

peace of Jesus, this might sound very roundabout, but I assure that this is the firmest way for the world peace. In the history, most of the peacemakers were ruled in the peace of Christ. We shall walk in the way that Jesus taught, and wait for the perfect peace that will be achieved at the time Jesus come again.

**(Prayer)**

Dear Father, today, we learned that your Son Jesus was the peacemaker. When we become your children through Him, and grow up to the likeness of Your Son, we would be peacemakers. You are waiting for our growth very patiently, so let us seek for growing as your children and becoming Christ-likeness with patience. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.