

- **Set the scene**

- The Sermon on the Mount
 - People gathered to hear Jesus
 - Skeptics, Believers, Interested in what was going on
 - What will the Messiah care about and do?
 - Will He liberate us from Rome?
 - Zealots
 - We will be sons of God
 - Inheritors of the kingdom

- **Matthew 5:9**

- **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”**
 - Dismantles the idea of what the Messiah would do
 - The inheritors of God would not be marked by violence, but by peace.

- Want to do a few things this morning

- What is peacemaking?
- How do we do peacemaking?
- Why does it matter?

- **Peacemaking is engaging conflict to restore what has been broken**

- Engage = Active
- Conflict = Disharmony, pain, suffering, wrong
- Restore = To make whole or right

- **WHY does peacemaking matter?**

- Jesus cares about peacemaking because he cares about people.
 - So why should you care about peacemaking? Because God does.

- God is in the business of Restoration

- People, places, things. It is the mission.

We see God's restorative mission from the beginning

- Genesis 1-3

- **Gen 3:1,6-13**

- 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”
- 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among

the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- We see
 - Satan: the problem
 - Bring conflict, pain, strife, confusion, chaos into the garden
 - Adam: passive
 - Adam does nothing, then he hides, and then he blames God.
 - "She also gave some to her husband, who was with her"
 - Unity broken between man and woman.
 - I heard, I was afraid, I was naked, I hid myself
 - Blames God
 - "The woman you gave to be with me"
 - The Lord: peacemaker
 - God walking in the garden in the cool of the day
 - What use to be a normal activity
 - "Where are you"
 - There was harmony and now it's been broken
 - The plan to restore all things through Jesus begins
- **Clarification**
 - 1. Peacemaking is more than just the spiritual restoration between God and man. God is restoring all things and wants you to join him in the restoration of all things.
 - The Bible is filled with stories of people faithfully engaging conflict to restore what has been broken.
 - **Nehemiah**
 - He is a cupbearer for the king of Persia???
 - Hears of Jerusalem's destruction
 - Prays and plans
 - Asks the King of Persia to let him go and asks for supplies
 - He goes and the first thing he does is what? Preaches a sermon? Throws a revival? No, he walks the city wall and prays. And then, he begins to rebuild it.

- WHY? Because Nehemiah knew something so important. It is hard to truly hear the Gospel message and worship God when your immediate physical needs are not met.
 - He rebuilds the wall, there is safety in the city, people rejoice and what do they do? They throw a party and people repent and come to know the Lord.
 - **Jesus**
 - Jesus meets people's needs
 - He interacts with people and heals them of not just a spiritual ailment, but a physical one.
 - Healing was physical and spiritual.
 - Meeting my kids physical needs
 - I can't just love them so much that they don't need food and water
 - One way I show them I love them is by providing for them and that allows me to connect with them emotionally
- **HOW**
 - Big Picture
 - Support organizations that do good work
 - What is something you're passionate about?
 - I hate human trafficking. Slavery is evil. But I can't end slavery on my own.
 - But I can support organizations that are doing the work of peacemaking to engage slavery with the goal of ending it
 - Rapha International
 - They are doing incredible work in aftercare helping young women who have been trafficked heal from it.
 - They are also doing preventative work in communities through efforts like Kids Club.
 - That is the sort of creative work God is asking of us.
 - Forced labor
 - What you buy matters
 - I can't put an end to forced labor or sweatshops on my own, but I can choose where to spend my money.
 - Look in your closet
 - Look at the websites
 - **What do these big picture examples have to do with Matthew 5:9?**
 - Because every human has value and was created in the image of God therefore it is not ok for people to be treated less than and it is not ok for my life to benefit because of the inhumane treatment of another.
 - Zoom in

- Home/Extended Family
 - Is my house a more peaceful place because of my presence?
 - Ask your spouse
 - How in the world do we expect to make the world a more peaceful place if our house is the opposite?
- Work/School/Community
 - Is your school or work a more peaceful place so that Jesus may be glorified?
 - Do you care for the well being of your neighborhood and city?
- **Wrap Up**
 - Because if you don't, then who will.
 - Only you are in the circles that you are in. No one else can be a peacemaker in your place
 - You must reject apathy
 - You must not be passive in your faith
 - Maybe this is how Jesus wants to grow you
 - So here's the question, what are you?
 - Are you the problem?
 - Like Satan
 - Bring conflict, pain, strife, confusion, chaos into the spaces you enter.
 - Do you always have to be right?
 - Do you always have to have the last word?
 - Do you always have to win?
 - Are you passive?
 - Like Adam
 - Genesis 3. Adam does nothing and then he blames God.
 - Are you so afraid of conflict that you stay on the sidelines of everything
 - Or, are you a peacemaker?
 - Like Jesus
 - Bring restoration and reconciliation between people and God.
 - With wisdom, you move into situations that aren't always easy or comfortable
 - My guess is you're probably a mix of all three.
 - If you're the problem, I think your prayer is simple. God, I find myself bringing conflict into situations which don't bring glory to you or restoration to those around me. Help me change this.
 - If you're passive, pray that God that gives you the courage to do something and not just watch as conflict arises in situations.
 - If you've found that peacemaking is where you find yourself most of the time, praise God. Pray that God will continue to give you the wisdom and courage to continue this.

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- You might need to hear for the first time that Jesus came here to this earth to restore brokenness and that includes you. That through his life, death, and resurrection, you can be restored. Because if the resurrection happened, anything is possible in your life.
- I pray that you will live a life marked by peace