

Is there a difference in meaning between Peace as we commonly use the word today and the how the Bible talks about Peace?

Matthew 5:3–12 forms the opening section of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, known as the Beatitudes. In these verses, Jesus describes the qualities and attitudes of those who belong to God's kingdom. He blesses the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers, showing that true blessing comes through humility, righteousness, and dependence on God. These teachings challenge worldly ideas of success and happiness, emphasizing spiritual richness over material gain. Jesus also assures comfort and eternal reward to those who suffer persecution for their faith. Together, the Beatitudes reveal the character of Christ's followers and the upside-down values of God's kingdom, where suffering leads to joy and the humble inherit God's promises.

Read Matthew 5:3-12

1. When you listen to the beatitudes, what questions or thoughts do they invoke?
2. The Old Testament word for peace, "**shalom**," carries the idea of completeness, well-being, and prosperity that comes from living according to God's ways (Numbers 6:24–26; Isaiah 26:3). It is a state of life where everything is as it should be under God's rule. *How would you describe shalom to someone who isn't a Christian?*

3. What does Jesus mean by "peacemakers"?
4. On Remembrance Day, we honour those who gave their lives in war. How does the call to be a *peacemaker* challenge or deepen our understanding of their sacrifice?
5. How is this different from simply being a peacekeeper?
6. What qualities make someone a true child of God according to verse 9?
7. In verses 10–12, what kinds of persecution does Jesus refer to, and why are those who suffer for righteousness called "blessed"?
8. Can we find parallels between the courage of soldiers who stood for justice and the courage of Christians who stand for their faith?
9. Have you ever faced opposition for doing what you believed was right? How does this passage encourage you in such moments?
10. What is the difference between being persecuted because you are being obnoxious and persecuted for righteousness sake?
11. How does Jesus redefine what it means to be "blessed" in these verses?
12. How can we live out the role of *peacemakers* in a world still divided by conflict, hate, or injustice?

Prayer Points

Please pray for the ongoing conflicts around the world. For those in Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, Yemen and Sudan.

Pray for the recovery in Jamaica after the hurricane devastated parts of the island.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

November 9th 2025

Remembrance Sunday:

Peacemakers

Matthew 5:3-12

Being peacemakers, as taught in the Bible, means actively working to bring reconciliation, justice, and harmony in a world broken by conflict. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). True peace is not just the end of fighting but the presence of love, forgiveness, and righteousness that reflects God's heart. On VE Day, we remember the end of World War II in Europe and honour those who sacrificed for peace and freedom. Their courage reminds us that peace often comes at great cost. As followers of Christ, we are called not only to remember their efforts but to continue building peace in our relationships, communities, and world through God's love and grace.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001