

CONSECRATED IN THE CHAOS

Chapter 7: A Peacemaker

Scripture: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

Matthew 5:9

PROSPECTING FOR GOLD

The Main Idea – The Big Questions

1. How would you define peace?
2. What would most people say are the qualities of a peacemaker?
3. What’s the difference between a *peacemaker* and a *peacekeeper*?

MINING FOR GOLD

Making it personal – real life challenges – what do we learn?

4. What does it mean to be reconciled to God?
5. What are some of the elements of reconciliation and what does it bring to our relationships?
6. What is the relationship between forgiveness and peace?
7. How does the process of reconciliation through forgiveness equip us for peacemaking?
8. Can a person be a peacemaker without reconciliation in their own lives (this includes earthly relationships)? Explain.

“In order to truly assess the context of what Jesus is saying, we have to start by removing our cultural and societal glasses.”

Cassidy Campbell, *Consecrated in the Chaos*, page 89

EXTRACTING THE GOLD

Discovering the True & Pure Meaning of Jesus' Words

9. In our world today, what does it mean “to make peace” and how do we see people attempting to do that?

Both as individuals and as a society, how successful do you think most people are at making peace?

10. What is the biggest difference between the way Jesus made (or attempted to make) peace and the way people in society today make (or attempt to make) peace?

11. Considering Jesus' example, what is your understanding of the word *peacemaker*?

12. As peacemakers, discuss the challenges the forerunners (prophets & John the Baptist), disciples, and apostles experienced in proclaiming their message of peace, hope, and love.

“If I were to describe John the Baptist in a few words, would peacemaker be one of the first words that would come to mind? Would peacemaker be the word I would use to describe Isaiah? No, not until now. In the past, I would use words to describe these men like powerful, resolved, courageous. I believe this is exactly what Jesus was thinking and talking about as the word peacemaker flowed from heaven through His lips to humanity. Peacemakers! Peace! It was God's message of peace that Isaiah and John were declaring as forerunners in their time. It was the message the Father sent Jesus to proclaim.”

Cassidy Campbell, *Consecrated in the Chaos*, page 90

13. Did these messengers experience peace themselves? Explain.

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Drawing from other examples in Scripture – what do we learn?

Read the following Scripture passages and answer the questions that follow:

Jesus, Prince of Peace – Isaiah 9:6-7a GNT

“A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And He will be our ruler. He will be called, ‘Wonderful Counselor,’ ‘Mighty God,’ ‘Eternal Father,’ ‘Prince of Peace.’ His royal power will continue to grow; His kingdom will always be at peace.”

- ❖ Do these verses excite you? Do they bring you peace? Explain.
- ❖ How does the knowledge that Jesus is the “Prince of Peace” lead us to action –

What must we *do*?

To do that, what must we *be*?

How will we know we have accomplished this?

Why is this important?

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

The Ministry of Reconciliation – 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 CSB

“Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making His appeal through us. We plead on Christ’s behalf, ‘Be reconciled to God.’

- ❖ In your own words, describe what the ministry of reconciliation looks like. Describe how reconciliation to God through Christ leads to peace not only within people but also within society.
- ❖ Along with their hopeful message of reconciliation with God, the prophets, the apostles, and Jesus Himself encouraged the people of the Bible and everyone since to *wait on the Lord*. What does it mean to wait on the Lord?
- ❖ Jesus said there are eternal rewards “to those who overcome.” What role does *waiting on the Lord* play in becoming and being an overcomer?

REFINING THE GOLD

Personal Journey – the Challenges and the Connection to God

14. How do you know you are a child of God?

15. If Jesus is the “*Prince of Peace*,” the ultimate Peacemaker, how do we as overcomers and children of God become peacemakers?

16. Our world is broken. We see disregard for life, the sanctity of marriage, and civility. We see political discord, identity crises, injustice, and the list goes on. Instead of retreating in confusion and fear, conflicts are a divine opportunity for those who know the Lord to make Him known. In a world of so much brokenness, how can we respond?

17. The definition of a forerunner is “a person or thing that precedes the coming or development of someone or something.” As Christians, how are we forerunners today? Who are we forerunners of? How does this affect your view of the people you meet when you walk out your door every day?

This Week: Consider how you will spend your time as you *wait on the Lord*. Pray and then make a list to meditate on and follow. Note: This is not an exhaustive list. Be ready to add to it as the Lord leads.

