

## TRY TO MAKE PEACE AND GET IN TROUBLE

Matthew 5:9-12

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** WWJD? Was often used a few years ago, "What Would Jesus Do?" Have you ever really given some thought to what might be different if Jesus were here? What would our television shows be like? What would our government be like? What would our Churches be like? Would He cause a lot of trouble or would He bring peace? Jesus' way of doing things was very much contrary to the normal way things when He was here and He taught that God's Kingdom was entirely different from this world. The people of God's Kingdom are not the best, brightest, bravest, strongest, most worthy, most beautiful, but were directly the opposite, they are poor, nameless, spiritually bankrupt, very dismayed, troubled, totally inadequate, asking for justice, quick to forgive and those who are actually innocent and pure. What a difference from what it's like here on earth.

Jesus teaches that those in the Kingdom of God are not troublemakers but are peacemakers.

### I. THEY PROMOTE HARMONY, UNITY (Matthew 5:9)

1. Jesus is not talking about walking up and down the street holding a protest sign or staging a "sit in" and such but those who actually do real things to bring about harmony.
  - Dr. Criswell once said in a sermon on this subject of making peace, "...sometimes you have to knock a few heads before there will be peace..."
  - Those in the Kingdom of God represent Jesus and promote peace with God with actions.
    - *Romans 5:1; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20*
    - Having peace with God is to cause a person to help others find that same peace with God.
    - The message that is to be told is that God is not the enemy! God loves every one and wants them to be a part of His Kingdom.
2. Members of the Kingdom of God are to make peace and try to get along with others while they are still here on earth. However that is contrary to the normal way of living here on earth and trying to make peace brings conflict. *Hebrews 12:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12*
  - Those in the Kingdom of God are to promote harmony and unity in the Church. Oh yes, there is conflict and clashes within the Church for wherever there are people, there will be conflicts. Reconciliation and harmony among brothers and sisters is to be worked out.
    - *1 Peter 3:8-11; Romans 14:19; 12:16-18; Colossians 3:15*
3. So, Christian, are you a troublemaker or a peacemaker? Does your words and actions bring people into harmony with God and others? Or are you the cause of hurt feelings, arguments, etc?
  - Remember, those in God's Kingdom are to promote harmony and unity.

### II. THEY ARE MISTREATED FOR DOING THE RIGHT THING (Matthew 5:10)

1. Anytime you try to make peace, promote harmony with anybody who is not a Christian (and even Christians sometimes), you will more than likely receive hatred and often violence.
2. The general definition of "persecution" is those who are whipped, beaten, tortured, killed because of their faith such as missionaries killed in the jungles and other foreign countries, new Christians being mistreated, imprisoned, disowned by their families and even being killed because they became a Christian.

- We say that in our own country nobody is really "persecuted," however the word "persecute" in its original Greek meaning is to hunt in order to mistreat or hassle, tease, discriminate against, refuse to tolerate, to accuse, to treat in a cruel or unfair way. AHA!
    - There is such "persecution" in this very country.
  - Any Christian who has been mistreated because he/she tried to bring harmony, peace and do the right thing is DOING THE RIGHT THING and has shown proof that he/she is indeed a member of God's Kingdom. **2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 3:14-17**
  - Being fired from a job for refusing to serve alcohol, threatened and even physically attacked for telling the truth in places of employment, being called a "holy roller," "think you are better than everybody else," etc., all point to a person doing what a member of the Kingdom of God is supposed to be doing.
    - Remember when Paul was put into prison after being whipped, more than once, by people lying about what Paul was actually doing? **1 Thessalonians 3:2-4**
3. Experiencing any form of persecution for doing the right thing is a normal part of being a follower of Jesus. "Blessed" are you when you are persecuted because of doing the right thing.

### III. MISTREATED BECAUSE OF JESUS (Matthew 5:11)

1. "Insult" is saying something damaging directly to somebody. "Slander" is saying things untrue to someone else with the intent of damaging a person. Being mistreated because of doing the right thing and then being mistreated because of one's relationship with Jesus happens every day. **John 15:18-21; 1 Peter 4:14-16**
  - Those who are not Christians don't care very much for those who are Christians.
  - When depicted in movies, Christians are always shown as backward, gullible, naive, prudish, judgmental, insensitive, cruel, stupid and pretenders of their faith. When such insults are not true and made as a result of people being in a true relationship with Jesus, they are blessed.
2. Sad, but true, sometimes what Christians are criticized for is true!
  - There have been television "evangelists," "self-appointed" pastors of their own style of church, and such who have misled thousands of people, "send me \$100 and I will pray over a hankey and send it to you and you will be healed..." etc.
  - Then Christians have publicly said stupid, backward, idiotic, judgmental, insensitive and cruel things about other people. **1 Peter 3:15-16; 3:12**
  - You are blessed if you have been or are being persecuted or slandered because of your stand for Jesus. You are in good company.

### CONCLUSION:

1. So, are you a troublemaker or are you promoting harmony and unity? Are you being mistreated because you are trying to do right or simply because you belong to the Lord Jesus?
2. If you have been mistreated, made fun of, insulted, ignored, etc., because of your stand for the Lord, then you are "blessed." Like the little Jamaican jingle goes, "don't worry...be happy..." because your reward awaiting you in God's Kingdom is worth whatever you have to endure while you are here on earth.