

Peace ⁽²⁾ On Earth

Text : **Matt. 10: 32-39**

(Also read ... Luke 19: 37-44)

INTRODUCTION :

A. Last lesson we started a series of studies about peace.

1. We saw that peace with God is the single most fundamental need of man.
 - a. God gave man dominion over the lower creatures, but He rules over man.
 - b. Man has consistently sought to rule over himself, thus, rebelling against God.
2. Satan tempts man by appealing to the desires of his flesh. **James 1: 13-15**
 - a. Disobedience to God causes one to be separated from God. **Isa. 59: 1-2**
 - b. This separation is referred to as spiritual death.

Eph. 2: 1-2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
 - c. Sin is rebellion against God's rule and results in one becoming God's enemies.

Read ... Rom. 5: 8-11
3. God sent His Only Begotten Son as His ambassador of peace.
 - a. **I John 4: 10** ... Jesus came as the propitiation for man's transgressions.
 - b. **Mark 10: 45** ... Jesus provided the ransom for those captured by sins.
 - c. **Titus 2:13-14** ... Jesus paid the price to redeem those sold into sin.
 - d. **II Cor. 5: 16-21** ... Jesus provided the option for men to be reconciled to God.

B. With this lesson we will examine the concept of peace on earth. (**between nations**)

1. "World Peace" is an illusive dream.
 - a. It's the announced goal of beauty contestants, but an unreal expectation.
 - b. Historians tell us that out of 3100 years of recorded history the world has been at peace only 8% of the time – 286 years.
2. In more primitive times men accepted war as a normal part of life.

II Sam. 11: 1- Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem.
3. In our time most people (*especially Americans*) view war with distain, **but** many in this world still find many reasons for going to war. Such as :
 - a. One nation wants the resources of another. (**oil, Spanish colonization**)

- b. One nation wants the territory of another. (**Russia seek warm water port.**)
 - c. One ethnic group wants to supplant or eliminate another. (**African tribal wars.**)
 - d. Many wars are fought seeking revenge for past wars. (**Serbian conflict – Chuck**)
 - e. Economic wars are common. (**Japanese in WW 2 .. Spanish out of R.P.**)
 - f. Religion is a common cause for wars. (**Muslims , Spanish used it for cover.**)
4. Man seems predisposed to settle grievances by violence.
- a. Cain killed Abel.
 - b. God destroyed mankind (*except Noah*) because of their violent behavior.

Gen. 6: 11-13 Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. **12** God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. **13** Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.

C. By this lesson we will see that :

- 1. It is not always wrong to go to war.
- 2. God can bring about good even from the evils of war.
- 3. Jesus Christ is the only hope of world peace.

I. Not all war is evil. Some wars are from God.

A. We must remember that the world belongs to God and **HE remains sovereign.**

- 1. **Psa. 24:1-** The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.
- 2. God determines when nations will exist and where they will exist.
Acts 17:26- He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,
- 3. God is the one who appoints leaders over the nations.
Dan. 2: 21- It is He (God) who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding.
- 4. God reigns sovereign over all men, even the kings of the earth.
 - a. **Dan. 5: 21-** ... He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and that He sets over it whomever He wishes.

- b. **I Tim. 6: 14-15** ... you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,
(Compare ... **Rev. 1: 5, 17:12**)

B. God uses wars as a way of administering HIS judgments on the earth.

1. **Gen. 15: 13-16** God said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. **14** But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. **15** As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. **16** Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.”
2. This same principle was applied when God destroyed :
 - a. Sodom, Gomorrah, and the 10 cities of the plains.
 - b. The nations of Canaan.
 - c. The city of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

* *It is why the final judgment has not yet come.* **II Pet. 3:9**
3. Israel was warned that God’s judgment would come by foreign armies.
 - a. **Lev. 26: 14-15 , 21-25**
 - b. **Deut. 28: 15-16 , 25-29**

C. In order to be a just war, it must be fought for a just cause.

1. Nations fight wars for many unjust reasons :
 - a. To extend the dominion and power of one nation over another.
 - b. To take that which belongs to another. (**territory, resources, etc.**)

* *“Thou shall not steal” applies to nations as well as individuals.*

 - c. To act out hatred toward others.
 - d. To gain political support at home.
 - e. To increase the virility of the males of the next generation. (**cultural value**)

* **This is reason given a surprising amount of credence in some circles.**
Why do we call the WW 2 generation “the greatest generation?”
2. Wars must be fought if needed to defense of one’s life, family, property or nation.
Read ... Neh. 4: 11-14 (Cf - **II Sam. 10: 11-12**) *Endorsed examples*

3. Wars must be fought in the administration of justice.
 - a. **Read ... Rom. 13: 1-4**
 - b. The government must seek justice for those killed in an unprovoked attack. **(9-11)**
**Gen. 9: 6- Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed,
 For in the image of God He made man.**
 - c. Justice is not vengeance. Only God can administer vengeance. **Rom. 12:19**
4. Ultimately the motivation for war should always be to secure peace.

** Much to America's credit, those whom we have vanquished in battle are among our closest friends and most dependable allies.*

We must remain strong in order to remain at peace.
**Psa. 29:11- The Lord will give strength to His people;
 The Lord will bless His people with peace.**

II. God can bring about good even in war.

- A. **God has a history of using war to administer justice.**
 1. Egypt was destroyed for having enslaved and mistreated Israel. (cf **Joel 3: 19**)
 2. Babylon was destroyed because of their cruelty to Israel. **Jer. 50**
 3. Israel was destroyed because they rejected God and killed Jesus.
- B. **The gospel has been spread by war.**
 1. The Jews made war on the church and the gospel spread. **Acts 8**
 2. World War 2 resulted in a wave of missionaries going to many countries.
- C. **The accomplishment of God's will is a good within itself. (understand it or not)**
- D. **God works all things to good and to His ultimate glory. Rom. 8: 28**

III. Jesus is our only hope for peace on earth.

- A. **It is a misconception that Jesus came to earth to bring about world peace.**
 1. The angels who appeared to shepherds are often quoted as saying this.
**Luke 2: 14- "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace,
 goodwill toward men!" (This was not a promise or a prophecy.)**
 2. Jesus Himself said that He did NOT come to bring peace.
**Matt. 10: 34- Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth;
 I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.**

B. Jesus is the world's only hope for peace because only Jesus can change hearts.

1. A man's life is the fruit of his heart.

Matt. 15:18-19 But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, those defile the man. **19** For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, theft, false witness, slanders.

2. Jesus teaches men **"You shall love your neighbor as your self."** **Matt. 22: 39**

- a. Love knows how to get along with others. **I Cor. 13: 4-7**
- b. Love does not seek to elevate himself at the expense of another. **Phil. 2: 1-5**

3. Men will never start to act differently until they learn to think differently.

C. Therefore, to preach Jesus is to preach peace.

1. The prophet refers to Him as the **"prince of peace."**

- a. **Isa. 9: 6-7**
- b. This refers to peace with God within His kingdom, the church.

2. Man can only find a new heart when he repents and receives forgiveness. **Ezek. 18:31**

3. Forgiveness is only found in Christ Jesus.

Col. 1: 13-14 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (**transfer = change citizenship**)

D. When one is baptized into Christ (Gal. 3: 26-27) he is taken out of the rebellion.

1. The act of becoming a Christian takes one out of one **"kingdom"** into another.

2. The Christian receives a different citizenship.

Phil. 3: 20- For our citizenship is in Heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

3. A different citizenship necessitates a different loyalty. (**To Heaven, not earth**)

** If everyone is a citizen of the same kingdom, there can be no war.*

(**This was the foundation upon which the "Roman Peace" was built.**)

CONCLUSION :

- A. When Jesus returns, there will be eternal peace, but it will not be on earth.

- B. There will be but one king and one family in Heaven ... **THERE WILL BE PEACE**

- C. Jesus will reign eternally so there will be no more war.

Lesson Text

Luke 19: 37-44

37 As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, **38** shouting: “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” **39** Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” **40** But Jesus answered, “I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!”

41 When He approached *Jerusalem*, He saw the city and wept over it, **42** saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. **43** “For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, **44** and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

Matt. 10: 32-39

32 “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. **33** But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

34 Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35** For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; **36** and a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.

37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. **38** And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. **39** He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.”