

Sermon – March 19, 2010
Topic – Peacemakers (Plus Visit of YWAM)

Song – Play Straight Up – No Singing (no words)

- You Are Amazing

Introduction:

- Introduce YWAM (Aaron Townsville, Abbie Michigan, Maria Michigan, Cassandra BC, Ennis Newcastle, Matt Alberta)
- Read Scripture Verse (Colossians 1:21-22 – The Message)
- *At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got. But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually dying for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence. You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned in to the Message, careful not to be distracted or diverted. There is no other Message—just this one.*

Songs:

- Blessed Be The Lord My Rock
- Fear Not
- Majesty
- It is Well with My Soul

Sharing:

- YWAM Team
- YWAM Testimonies & Video

Sermon:

Matthew 5:9

- Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called Sons of God (read twice)
- This is our scripture for tonight and you will soon see why it applies exactly to you.

What is a Peacemaker?

- We have a concept of what a peacemaker is – of someone who sees a conflict between two people or two groups and tries to help them work it out.

Alfred Nobel (show picture 1)

- Died in 1896 leaving in his will instructions for prizes
- It was first awarded in 1901 for achievements in [Physics](#), [Chemistry](#), [Physiology or Medicine](#), [Literature](#), and [Peace](#)
- Every year a Nobel Peace Prize is given out along with a large amount of money.
- (show picture 2 on screen)

Past Winners of this prize include:

- Show picture (3) of 6 winners with no names – they must guess names
- Show picture (4) with names written on
- Many other famous people have won the prize as Nobel Peace Laureate

This Week As I read this Passage in the Bible

- I realise my understanding of this was way shallow
- I realised that the kind of peacemaker we think the Bible is talking about is not that at all.
- I need to illustrate this using another Bible passage and a story

Matthew 5:43-45

- It's not normal to love people who do the wrong thing to you
- But Jesus said we should love our enemies
- He said that if we did this we would be "sons of our father in heaven"
- In Matthew 5:9 we are promised to be "sons of God."
- Both passages promise the same thing... WHY

Both passages promise the same because both are asking you to do the same thing

- Jesus is not asking you to go and make peace between other people
- He is asking you to fix things up with people who hate you
- He is asking you to take responsibility for your relationships
- He is asking you to make amends to the people around you.

This is where we all hit a bump

- Because we all have reasons why the soured relationships in our lives are not our fault
- It's always the thing the other person did that ruined it
- They should be the one that comes to make things right.
- So that brings me to my story

Many years ago there was a family in this church

- Without going into it – they began to criticise me behind my back
- They began to undermine the things I preached
- I began to realise that they were going to ruin the church if they stayed in it
- I was starting to think I might need to ask them to leave
- Before I could – they actually decided to leave themselves

For years – we would see each other in public places

- We would ignore each other... WHY
- For my part they were rude ignorant and evil people who had the devil whispering in their minds
- I forgave them and let it be
- However I knew I had to make that relationship right again – so one day when we happened to meet in a public place I went and apologised to them.
- I apologised for not acting in wisdom and in unconditional love towards them and there was an instant friendliness that began to exist.
- I was taking the role of a peacemaker.

A Peacemaker takes the Initiative to Make a Relationship right

- Marriage counsellors will tell you that everybody thinks its the other person's fault
- Nobody blames themselves – its always the other person.

- Our lives are full of broken and ordinary relationships – but it’s never our fault.
- God is calling us to be “peacemakers”

Does This Mean You Will Actually Make Things Right

- Not necessarily
- Romans 12:18 ‘ live at peace with everyone as long as it depends on you.
- You are a peacemaker so you do what you can to make things right
- Sometimes that will not be enough.. sometimes it will be.

Peacemaker Challenge

- Which person in the photo is a peacemaker in the biblical definition? (pic 5)
- Show answer (pic 6)
- Yasser Arafat is a peacemaker in the Biblical definition because he was willing to go to His enemy and make peace – he convinced over 500 member of the Palestinian Authority to vote to surrender land to Israel so that peace could be made. Initially he was a soldier and combatant and terrorist – but in his later years he thought differently and became a peacemaker.
- Mother Theresa on the other hand did help a lot of people, and was a peacable person – but she doesn’t fit the bill in the same way.

Our Ultimate Example

- There was once a wonderful relationship between God and humanity
- But humans decided to pursue other things and this relationship was broken
- God could have said “its not my fault” – but he was the first Peacemaker
- He sent His son, to take responsibility for the relationship and bring it to restitution.
- Jesus is the first “son of God.”

Tonight We are not going anywhere without beginning a process of Peacemaking

- In your newsletters you have a space to right down the names of people
- These people have wronged you, grown apart from and may even hate you
- You are going to take responsibility to restore things with these people
- You are not to say “I don’t have to , it’s not my fault”
- Christ tells us we will be blessed and be called “sons of God.”

Music to Play

- People to write lists

Prayer Over Everyone