

Fil-Am Community Church

Pastor David Bennett

Sunday 10 June 2012

“Blessed are the Peacemakers”

Well let's start today by saying we all know in his word Christ says the whole world will hate you because of me, he goes further and explains that we are supposed to humble ourselves and let God be the one to exalt us. Why is this relevant this morning? I think everyone here is aware of the fight results last night between Manny Pacquiao and Tim Bradley. In his fight with Tim Bradley, Manny Pacquiao lost his belt, he may have deserved that belt, but he gained so much more.

After watching how Manny accepted the judges' decision with grace and self-control, he has earned our **respect and admiration**.

RESPECT

Manny says, "Let's give credit to Bradley. He did well tonight, I respect him, and that's the decision. I respect the officials. ... It's part of the game, I give thanks to the Lord."

Manny knew he should've won and yet, he chose to be a gentleman. He could've been mad at the judges or could have blamed someone else.

Instead, he gave Bradley his "time to shine" (it didn't last long though) For that, Manny, you've earned our respect.

ADMIRATION

As a Christian, it's easy to question God and say, "*Why God?!?*" Yet, you see a man who is humble before the Lord. Even after a questionable defeat he says, "I give thanks to the Lord."

It's easy to thank God when you're winning. But to thank the Lord at all times? (In this case, losing) That's always easier said than done!

And yet, he did.

I believe that his renewed faith gave him security. He knows that he is not just a title holder – there's more into his identity.

I'm excited to see what's next in the life of this champion. He did far more for Christianity in his post fight interviews than he ever could have in the ring. Ok enough let's get into the message this morning which is found in the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus gives you keys to happiness that is found in the Sermon on the Mount that we have been studying for the past Sundays'.

Jesus says that God blesses those that...

- Realize their need for him
- Those who mourn, for they will be comforted
- Those who are gentle & lowly, for the whole earth belongs to them
- Those who are hungry & thirsty for justice, for they will receive in full
- Those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy
- Those who are pure in heart, for they will be called Children of God
- Those who are persecuted because they live for God, for there's is the Kingdom of heaven

These statements or qualities mentioned in this list, those who mourn, and those who are gentle & lowly are not qualities that the Pharisees preached. They were primarily concerned with external qualities, but the qualities that Jesus mentioned are internal, these come only when one is properly related to God through faith, when one places his complete trust on God.

Please remember Peace at any cost is not peace at all....

Matthew 5:9 (NIV) ⁹ *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called "Children of God."*

Matthew 5:9 (Amplified Bible) ⁹ *Blessed (enjoying enviable happiness, spiritually prosperous with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) are the makers and maintainers of peace, for they shall be called the sons of God!*

As children of God we are to work for peace, the idea for peace is a big one as it is used 88 times in the New testament and over 200 times in the entire Bible.

We are called to be peacemakers; as such there are a few things we need to remember...

- The Maker of Peace is...**God**
- The Source of Peace is...**God**
- The Savior of Peace is... Our Lord and Savior **Christ Jesus**
- The Spirit of Peace is...the **Holy Spirit**
- The Cost of Peace is... The **Cross**

God can only work peace through us only if he has worked peace in us...

The one who does not belong to God through Christ Jesus can neither have peace, nor be a peacemaker.

Saints please listen to this... You cannot please God unless we are doing his will, his work and his way according to his word.

Numbers 6:24-26 (NASB) ²⁴ *The LORD bless you, and keep you;* ²⁵ *The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;* ²⁶ *The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'*

Ephesians 2:13-14 (NASB) ¹³ *But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.* ¹⁴ *For He*

Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

Hebrews 12:14-15 (NASB) ¹⁴ *“Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled”*

OK you get the point, but let us ask the question what is peace?

Is it just the absence of conflict? I think it has a lot more than that.

According to Wikipedia peace is...

Peace is a state of harmony characterized by the lack of violent conflict. Commonly understood as the absence of hostility, peace also suggests the existence of healthy or newly healed interpersonal or international relationships, prosperity in matters of social or economic welfare, the establishment of equality, and a working political order that serves the true interests of all. In international relations, peacetime is not only the absence of war or conflict, but also the presence of cultural and economic understanding.

Now this does not make sense because if you read your Bible, and I know you do, if you come to **IMPACT** class and I know you will...

You will also see that there will be conflict, that when we live for Christ the whole world will hate us.

Matthew 10:22 (NASB) ²² *You will be hated by all because of my name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.*

The only way you will have this peace we are talking about it through Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:19-20 (NASB) ¹⁹ *For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.*

We are called to make peace...

Peacemaking is built on **humility**, **sorrow** over its own sin, **gentleness**, hunger for **righteousness**, **mercy**, and **purity of heart**.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NASB) ¹⁷ *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*
¹⁸ *Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*
²⁰ *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

What is it that robs you of this peace that Christ is talking about?

Worry robs you of that peace.

Here is where it gets a little tricky, we give the big things over to God, I mean we know we are Christians that we've been forgiven, and we are going to Heaven. But it is the small things that we refuse to give over to God that causes us so much worry.

The **small things** like tomorrow and the next day, the presentation, the test or exam, the weekly school assignment, the next job interview, you fill in the blank _____.

We are so worried about those things, we have no problem turning the big things over to God but why can't we trust him with the everyday issues?

Matthew 6:25-34 (New Living Translation)

²⁵ "So I tell you, don't worry about everyday life -- whether you have enough food, drink, and clothes. Doesn't life consist of more than food and clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds. They don't need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are. ²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Of course not. ²⁸ "And why worry about your clothes? Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, ²⁹ yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰ And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you? You have so little

*faith!*³¹ "So don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing."³² Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs,³³ and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.³⁴ "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

In short Jesus says that our Father knows your needs and will provide your daily needs.

We should be busy about his business and not worry about our business.

Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Matthew 6:33 (KJV)

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

You can replace your worry with peace through Christ Jesus.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NASB)

²⁸ "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in

heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Are you a peacemaker?

When was the last time you just came to Jesus and said Lord I just need a **little peace?** I would like to replace my worries with a little peace.

You can do it right here with me today, just close your eyes bow your head and repeat after me...

Lets us pray... Father our desire here today is to celebrate you, to honor you not just with words but with deeds with our very life.

God today I would like to accept the peace in my heart that you have promised us from the beginning of time. I would like to replace any anxiety and worry with the peace that only comes from being in a committed and submitted relationship with you.