



Week 3: *WHAT DID JESUS TEACH?*

INTRODUCTION – Blessed are the Peacemakers

Matthew 5:9

DINE IN – Reading the Red Letters

- Teaching meant to be lived...
Matthew 7:24; John 14:15
- Loving sinners...
Matthew 18:15-17
- Loving enemies...
Matthew 5:38-48; Luke 6:27-28
- The Gospel of the Kingdom...
Matthew 4:23; Mark 1:14-15
- The Kingdom is our goal...
Matthew 6:33
A kingdom is a realm where the character and commands of the king influence a people's way of living – with each other and with other kingdoms. The kingdom of Heaven/God/Christ is a way of living in union with the authority, character, and way of Jesus.
- The Kingdom grows slowly, organically, and even serves enemies...
Luke 13:18-19; John 12:24
- The Kingdom is peace-making and peace-living...
John 18:36; 1 Peter 2:9
- The Kingdom is non-institutional and non-territorial...
Luke 17:20-21
- Lowly service as the way of the Kingdom...
Matthew 20:25-28; Mark 10:42-45; Luke 22:24-27; John 13:12-17

TAKE OUT – *Living as Citizens of God's Kingdom*

If your ultimate citizenship is in Christ's "off the map" kingdom, then whenever your earthly kingdom/nation calls upon you to do something that your heavenly kingdom says is wrong, the choice is clear – obey Christ, your King. And Christ calls us to be ready to suffer and die, but never to cause suffering and kill.

Mark 8:34-35; Luke 16:16; John 15:12-14

CONCLUSION – *Becoming a Citizen of God's Kingdom*

John 3:3; Romans 10:9

For Further Research...

- BOOKS...** Jesus For President – Shane Claiborne
The End of Religion, Chapter 10 – Bruxy Cavey
- TEACHING...** The Way (Apr 2004) & The Way Revisited (Oct 2009) – Bruxy Cavey

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. "Sure Jesus said if someone slaps you turn the other cheek. And I would. But if they hit me again, I'd knock 'em flat. After all, I only have two cheeks!" (Said by a popular evangelical preacher who shall remain nameless.) A) What are your thoughts about this sentiment? B) Christians use a variety of tactics to disarm the convicting power of Christ's words in Matthew 5. What are some you have heard or used? C) Why do you think it is so hard for otherwise Bible-believing Christ-followers to believe the Bible and follow Christ on this specific teaching?
2. The Schleithem Confession, written by the first Anabaptists in 1527, states: "Thereby shall also fall way from us the diabolical weapons of violence – such as sword, armour, and the like, and all of their use to protect friends or against enemies – by virtue of the word of Christ: "you shall not resist evil". Talk about it.

Look to the Book...

3. Although peace churches (or pacifists) are united in taking the peace teaching of Jesus seriously and see peace as a means and not just an end goal of Christ, there are different views on how best to live this out. For example, some champion *peaceful non-resistance* of evil based on **Matthew 5:39** (read) which would lead them to be helpful in times of crisis (e.g., dig wells, distribute food and clothing, build shelter, offer medical help, etc.) but not to get directly involved in civil disobedience (sometimes called *the classic Anabaptist view*). Others champion *peaceful resistance* (or *militant non-violence*) based on **Romans 12:21** (read) which leads them to be very actively involved in resisting evil systems through non-violent protests, boycotts, and other forms of civil disobedience (sometimes called *the neo-Anabaptist view*). a) Discuss how each school of thought would use their key Scripture to inform their specific beliefs and tactics. b) Why would these two approaches be considered two wings within the same movement rather than two different Christian movements or schools of thought? c) Which wing of the Christian peace movement are you more drawn to? Why is that? d) How does **1 Peter 2:13-23** inform this discussion?

So What?...

4. Have you noticed any shift in your thinking on the issue of Christian pacifism versus justified violence so far in this series? Why or why not? Under what circumstances, if any, do you think Christians should become violent? On what Scriptural grounds do you base your opinion?

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching