

# PEACEMAKERS

## Week 5: *Gentle Justice*

### APPETIZER: Violence in the Old Testament

#### VIOLENCE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. God created us to live lives of love, peace, and harmony. Our souls were not designed to bear the weight of hate.
2. When we chose autonomy over obedience, the power of sin began to affect us, separate us, and increase our violent tendencies.
3. Although God opposed violence, he accommodated and used our hard hearted violent addictions to bring about his justice.
4. God prescribed limits on human violence to bring about justice with minimal damage.
5. God promises the coming of the prince of peace, who will bring about justice through gentleness rather than force.

### DINE IN: The Prince of Peace

Matthew 12:18-21

- **1 Samuel 8** – We want a king! To fight our battles!
- **1 Chronicles 22:8; 28:3** – David cannot build the temple because of his violence.
- **Psalms 20:7; 33:16-20** – God, not our military strength, saves us.
- **Isaiah 2:4 / Micah 4:3** – Weapons will be turned into farming tools, and nations will no longer go to war.
- **Isaiah 9:6-7** – The Prince of Peace will bring justice through peace.
- **Isaiah 11:6-9** – One day, even all nature will be living in peace.
- **Isaiah 42:1-4** – The coming king will be gentle in his justice.
- **Isaiah 53:5** – Jesus will heal through suffering.
- **Hosea 1:5, 7** – God’s deliverance will not come through violence.
- **Zechariah 9:10** – The coming king is humble, riding on a donkey, speaking peace to all nations.

### TAKE OUT: Sharia Love

Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 5:10

For more information...

- Read *Fight*, by Preston Sprinkle
- [themeetinghouse.com/peacemakers](http://themeetinghouse.com/peacemakers)

### NEXT WEEK: Peacemakers Q & A

We wrap up our Peacemakers series with a Q&A Sunday on peace. (We regret that, due to health issues, Dr. John Perkins cannot join us.)

---

## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. We're wrapping up our Peacemakers campaign this week. Relief Kits and Peace Cards – how did your home church do?
2. After reviewing Sunday's message talk about what stood out to you.

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read the following passage: **Matthew 11:28-12:21**.
  - a. What verse or idea stands out to you? Why?
  - b. Jesus offers rest for our souls. What kinds of things do you think tire people out spiritually?
  - c. In responding to the accusation of the Pharisees, Jesus uses two Old Testament examples of why the Sabbath law is not as legalistic as they want it to be. What is the point of each example?
  - d. Jesus says God wants us to receive and give mercy, but doesn't want our sacrifices. Didn't God institute sacrifices? Aren't they his idea?
  - e. Jesus often avoids conflict or confrontation with his critics (e.g., **12:14-15**), and sometimes he refuses to engage or debate them (e.g., **21:23-27; 26:63; Isaiah 53:7**). Yet there are times that he lets them have it (e.g., **Matthew 23**). What do you think makes the difference? How can we follow his example today? Talk about examples if you can.
  - f. Do you know any bruised reeds or smoldering wicks? If so, what could you do this week to reach out to and support them? If not, what could you do this week to get to know some?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Use your regular huddle questions to talk about your lives and to prepare you to pray for each other.

February 26/March 5, 2017 // @bruxy

---

## Quotes

Today's Message –  
Part 5: Gentle Justice

Here is my chosen one in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him,  
and he will bring justice to the nations.  
A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.  
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice.  
~ Yahweh, through the prophet Isaiah

Some trust in chariots and some in horses,  
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.  
~ King David

No king is saved by the size of his army;  
no warrior escapes by his great strength.  
We wait in hope for the Lord;  
he is our help and our shield.  
~ King David

I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the  
Lord their God, will save them.  
~ Yahweh, through the Prophet Hosea

They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore.  
~ The Prophets Isaiah & Micah

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!  
See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious,  
lowly and riding on a donkey.  
I will take away the chariots and the warhorses from Jerusalem,  
and the battle bow will be broken.  
He will proclaim peace to the nations.  
~ Yahweh, through the Prophet Zechariah

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
~ The prophet Isaiah

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.  
~ Jesus