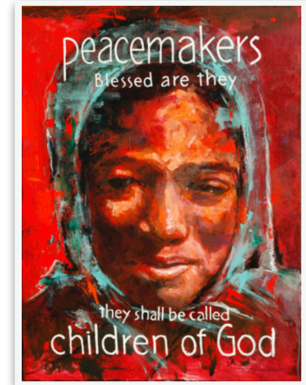

NOTES

Beatitude #7: “Blessed are those who work for peace, for they will be called the Children of God”. Matthew 5:9

The condition of blessing: ***We work to help people experience the peace that Jesus makes possible.***

- Jesus brings peace spiritual peace (between us and God.)

“Through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” —Colossians 1:20



>So we work for peace when we share the gospel and help people to put their faith in Christ.

- Jesus brings relational peace (between us and others.)

“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace.” —Ephesians 2:14-15

>So we work for peace by doing all we can to promote peace in our relationships and between other people.

The content of the blessing: ***We will reflect the true nature of God and so are identified as belonging to God.***

Why this brings lasting happiness:

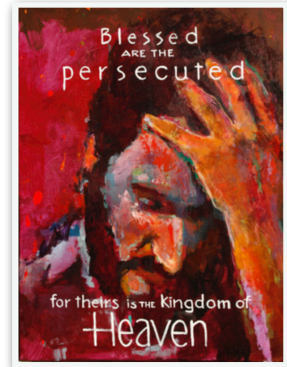
1. From knowing we're representing God well.
2. From see people enjoy the peace Jesus brings because of our efforts.

NOTES

Beatitude #8: *“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:10-12*

The condition of blessing: **Being treated harshly because we are doing the right thing in love as Jesus commands.**

Persecution is the emotional, relational, social, financial, political, or physical harm inflicted on you because you are doing the right thing in God’s sight in love for people.



The presence of embodied righteousness and love evokes one of two responses: either conviction leading to salvation or hardening leading to persecution.

The content of the blessing: **Persecution confirms that we belong to God’s family and will be richly rewarded in heaven for our obedience.**

Being persecuted for righteousness brings lasting happiness for two reasons.

1. It confirms that you are a faithful member of God’s kingdom and a child of the King.
2. It brings great reward in heaven.

Before the next class...

1. Reflect on and record your answers to the following questions.
 - ◆ What sinful habits do you struggle with? How can you overcome them?
 - ◆ Is there anyone you need to make peace with in your life?
 - ◆ What do you do to share the gospel with others? What could you do?
 - ◆ Describe when you were persecuted for righteousness sake, or why you have not been.
2. Do the following
 - ◆ Share the good news of Jesus with someone this week.
 - ◆ Pursue peace in a troubled relationship and see what happens.