

# Making Peace With Others

Matthew 5:20-26

Faith Portal Church

**ADULT**

Unit 4 Lesson 3

## Supplemental Texts

Gen 32:1-13; 33:1-11

## Focus Verse

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” – Hebrews 12:14

## Introduction

In His Sermon on the mount, Jesus taught, and since His teachings contradicted those of the Scribes and Pharisees, it might be possible for His hearers to think He has come to abolish the law, or the prophets. Jesus clarified that He has come to fulfil the law—to establish the purposes of the law. The law pointed to Jesus. It was a “schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Gal 3:24). This lesson will teach us how to preserve peace among us.

## Deeper Look

### Anger Without A Cause – Matt 5:20-22

Jesus charged the people to have righteousness that starkly differs from those of the Scribes and Pharisees because their righteousness was an outward show and not of God. Giving the law a deeper meaning, Jesus quoted one of the ten commandments (Exo 20:13; Deut 5:17) and gave its common interpretation by the Jews. As stated by the law, a murderer would be held guilty and sentenced to death (Lev 24:21; Num 35:16). This sentence was carried out by a court in each city consisting of seven judges (Deut 16:18). And Jesus, bringing clarity to the law, implied that an anger without a cause is a feeling of hatred against another (1 John 3:15). So, a person with this type of anger even when not acted out, would face the same judgment as a murderer. Jesus also warned of using contemptuous words as they will be judged (Matt 12:36).

### If You Bring Your Gift To The Alter – Matt 5:23-26

Again, Jesus touched on a crucial point that to offer an acceptable sacrifice or worship unto God, we must ensure that our relationship with others is intact. This means preserving peace in human relationships is important to God. Reconcile with those you hurt and forgive those who hurt you. Finally, Jesus told His audience to make peace with their adversary—plaintiff—while on the way to the court before the trial. It would be unwise to let the issue get to the court of law, He implied, as the consequence might be awful. As believers, we must be diligent to apply this principle, and strive to live in peace with all people, believers, and unbelievers, alike.

## Questions

1. Why did Jesus instruct us to have righteousness that exceeds that of the Scribes and the Pharisees of His time as a condition to enter the kingdom of heaven? How can we have that righteousness? See Phil 3:9.
2. Where is the verse that forbids a person to kill another person? What was the danger of killing a person in the Old Testament? See Lev 24:21; Num 35:16.
3. What does it mean to be angry with someone without a cause? Can the law find a person guilty for being angry with someone without a cause? Can God find that person guilty? Why, or why not?
4. Why did Jesus warn against speaking contemptuous words to a brother or a sister? See Matt 12:36. What impact can our words have on other people? What virtue is lacking when we speaking contemptuously? Explain.
5. Why did Jesus emphasize leaving our gift at the altar, and first go and be reconciled to someone who has something against us before offering our gift to God?
6. Yes, we must make peace with those we hurt and forgive those who hurt us. In keeping with making peace, which is more important than the other? Explain.
7. What is the danger of not coming to terms as soon as possible with someone who brings a case against us? What principle did Jesus reveal to us in this case?

## Personal Meditation

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in thee (Isa 26:3). If your mind remains focused on God as the verse says, you will surely enjoy the peace from the Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6). This peace is not from the world (John 14:27). Believers are enabled to extend the indwelling peace to the world around them by living in accordance with God's directives. We are to be identified as peaceable people.

At times, issues that can threaten the bond of peace arise between believers, and believers must do everything possible to sustain it. Peace must also be sustained in our relationships with unbelievers. Our thoughts, words, and deeds are vital to preserving peace. In the supplemental texts, Jacob sought his brother's forgiveness for the wrong he did to him. This is reconciliation. It is important to have a mind free of offence (Acts 24:16). Satan is deceptive; he will give you all the reasons to keep you from reconciling. Are there people in your life you need to make peace with? The consequence of delaying may be too costly, please make peace NOW.

## DAILY STUDY

Monday	Matt 5:20-22
Tuesday	Matt 5:23-24
Wednesday	Matt 5:26-26
Thursday	Gen 32:1-6
Friday	Gen 32:7-13
Saturday	Gen 33:1-11



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