

# *The* **King's Manifesto**

*The Sermon on the Mount*

*Week 3: Matthew 5:8-12*

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- God's goals and aims for His Kingdom
- The Kingdom is "Already and Not Yet"
- We need to repent!
- God is ready to bless those who are poor in Spirit

## Kingdom Promises:

- Blessed are the pure in heart
- Blessed are the peace-makers
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake

Purity in heart means that are hearts are wholly and purely devoted to Jesus. Our hearts aren't mixed together with a little bit of Jesus here and a little bit of other stuff there, fighting for our affections and desires.

Blessed are the peace-makers:  
joining the family business.

'Shalom' means that things are complete and whole. They are as they should be. It is a state of well-being, harmony, health, success, and prosperity. When God first created Adam and Eve in the garden, everything was in a state of 'shalom'. It was as it should be. And when Jesus establishes the New Heaven and the New Earth, 'shalom' will once again fill the earth.

The good news of Jesus bringing the Kingdom of Heaven down to earth meant that He was bringing the full healing, restorative, reconciling power of shalom with Him. He was calling people to repentance and right relationship with God AND bringing healing, wholeness, well-being, right-ness to the people's broken and hurting bodies, minds, and spirits.

Making Peace: God's Kingdom people should be hungering and thirsting for righteousness – righteousness is often used in the Old Testament as doing and being all that God says is good and right and caring for those who are hurting, oppressed, or vulnerable. Passages like Isaiah 32:16-17 show us that the product of righteousness will be peace. In other words, righteousness actively creates the conditions for peace and ministers to and restores those suffering from a lack of shalom.

## Peace-makers are:

1. Honest about the true status of peace in the world around them.
2. Willing to sacrifice and endure pain to pursue peace.

“To be persecuted because of righteousness is to be mistreated because you display the kingdom characteristics described in 5:3–9. Some people won’t like you for doing so. Persecution may take a variety of forms and come from a variety of sources (your family, an employer, the culture, the government). But in receiving it you’ll be in the company of a class of people (see Heb 11) of whom the world is not worthy (Heb 11:38).”

–Tony Evans



Two reasons we can rejoice while being persecuted:

1. Because it is a mark that we are being a faithful follower of Christ
2. Because our reward will be great in heaven

Two warnings about persecution –  
You need to examine your heart if:

1. You never experience persecution for righteousness' sake or on account of Jesus
2. You suffer not just because of your faith and righteousness but because of your own sin and the way you engage with the world

**“Look! God and His children are together again. No more running away. Or hiding. No more crying or being lonely or afraid. No more being sick or dying. Because all of those things are gone. Yes, they’re gone forever. Everything sad has come untrue. And see – I have wiped away every tear from every eye!”**

**-Jesus Story-book Bible**