PRACTICAL PEACEMAKING

Matthew 5:9

LESSED

FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD.

MATTHEW 5:9

- God's Way to Peace:
 - "Speak softly and carry a big stick; you'll go far." – T. Roosevelt.
 - "we maintain peace through our strength; weakness only invites aggression." – R. Reagan.
 - Not peace through strength but peace through humility. Matt. 5:3, 5, 9

- Abigail, A Woman of Good Understanding:
 - 1 Sam. 25:18-35.
 - Peace not through strength but humility and self-sacrifice.
 - David recognized this way of peace as having come from God. v.33.

- What Peacemaking Is:
 - Peace is not the absence of hostility at all costs but avoiding vengeance at all costs.
 Eccl. 3; Matt. 10:34-36; Rom. 12:18-19
 - Peace is not the absence of suffering or persecution. Matt. 5:10-11
 - Peace is the very essence of godly wisdom. Jas. 3:13-18

- Practical Peacemaking:
 - The world needs our <u>gospel</u> not our sword.
 Lk. 9:51-56; (Jn. 18:4-11); Matt. 5:11-12.
 - 2. We need to strive to be a Steven and not a Saul.
 - Acts 7:54-60; (Acts 8:1); 7:40; Rom. 12:14-21
 - 3. We need to be contrite when wronged and quiet in anger.
 - 1 Cor. 13:5b; Eph. 4:26; Jas. 1:19-20