

War and Peace, part 2 - What did Jesus Teach?

Study Notes for Message on 14th February 2021

Matthew 5 verses 38 to 48

Last week we saw how the church changed from being pacifist to fighting and killing. In **Matthew 5 verse 9**, Jesus says:

'Blessed are the peacemakers, they will be called children of God.'

What does being a child of God mean?

Jesus says: 'Love your enemies, overcome evil with good, do good to those who hurt you.' Also, **Matthew 7 verse 24**:

'Everyone who hears these words of mine, AND puts them into practice, is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.'

How do we act on these words of Jesus? Are we doing enough?

Read Matthew 5 verses 38 to 48.

We saw the difference between 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth' and the way of Jesus.

What's the difference between being a doormat, and responding in creative peaceful ways?

Jesus gave three examples to creatively help someone realise we can treat each other better, as made in the image of God.

Are there ways in our culture to peacefully help people to that realisation?

'Love your enemies' is the principle. Jesus gives three practical steps:

Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

The action is decreasing.

Is this a useful system? In what way?