

Calling All Peacemakers – Part I

INTRODUCTION

There can be no debate that with His life, teaching, death, and resurrection Jesus made crystal-clear that He stands in direct opposition to the world order. Nowhere is this made more manifest than in the area of conflict. Looking at the story of Samson (Judges 15), we see the typical unfolding pattern when conflict arises. Invariably, conflict goes from vilification of the enemy, to escalation, to excusing it all as “this is just the way things work.” In Matthew 26 – when Jesus is arrested – we find that He reiterates that His way is different from that of the disciple who pulls a sword, and from the mob that came for Him with swords and clubs.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Judges [15:1-11](#). Have you ever been caught-up in conflict that out as person and the escalated?

1. When you see conflict, do you excuse it with the words, “that just the way things are”?
2. Read Mathew [26:47-56](#) – especially verses 52-56. Notice what Jesus says to the disciple who pulled his sword; what does Jesus say about His power and calling down angels; what does He say He came to do, as prophesied?
3. As you look at the Cross, hopefully you see it as the means of personal salvation, but beyond the personal what does it say about the world order, about the way the world does things?
4. Life is filled with conflicts and disputes of one type or another, some of them personal, some communal, others global; have you ever been involved in its escalation; have you ever been involved in trying to bring peace?

TO THINK ABOUT

Many of us look at conflict, war, enmity with the attitude that that is just the way things are. But Jesus stands in direct opposition to much of what our culture purports to be true or important.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What are the areas of your life – in your condo, neighborhood, office, or even in your family where conflict arises, and when it does could there be a new or different way to handle the conflict? What risks would be involved? Could you look at an area of conflict about which you could pray and work toward a different conclusion? Is there anywhere where you might be called to be a peacemaker?

MAKING A CHANGE

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God.

Matthew 5.9