

## Calling All Peacemakers – Part II

### INTRODUCTION

The object of our reading, studying, and coming to Scripture is to ask the question, “What is it saying to us about life, about our culture, about the big issues?” Nowhere is this more profound, for Christians than when we come to the words of Jesus. The question might be framed a bit differently, like, “If Jesus were physically here, with us, what would He want to talk about?” For Presbyterian Christians, September has been declared the month of “Peacemaking.” So it is, perhaps, a good time to focus on the things that make for peace. So for this week, and next, we’ll step outside the usual approach in this little study.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke [19:41-42](#). Are you able to get a mental picture of Jesus here, at this point? It is, you know, one of only two times in which we are told in the Gospels that Jesus weeps. What are the things/times/situations/ circumstances that bring you to the verge of tears?
2. Do you ever experience a sense of sadness over situations/times/circumstances that have, perhaps, nothing whatsoever to do with you or your family/friends/acquaintances?
3. Do the inequities in our world ever cause you grief? Are you ever shocked by these inequities; that more than half the people of the world live on less than \$2 a day; that ¼ of the world’s population is without safe drinking water; that nearly half of the world’s population lacks basic sanitation; that every 16 second someone dies of starvation?
4. What, do you suppose, Jesus would say? How would He have us react? Or more importantly, what would He have us do?
5. Did you know that the United States consumes 25% of the world’s oil production, and we make up something less than 5% of the world’s population?
6. Did you know that it is estimated, even in these troubled economic times, on the single day after Thanksgiving, Americans will spend between 7 and 9 billion dollars Christmas shopping, on that single day?

### TO THINK ABOUT

Former Secretary-of-State Colin Powell has said, “...we can never win the war on terror until we address the root causes of world-wide poverty.” And in the same speech he said, “No nation, no matter how powerful, will ever be safe, until it has dealt with the economic desperation that is mingled with tyranny.”

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Spend some time this week, alone, thinking through the issues surrounding peace and peacemaking. Perhaps you might discuss those issues with your family, partner, coworkers. Are there any steps you might take to address inequity or peacemaking?

### MAKING A CHANGE

...if only you had recognized on this day the things that make for peace!

[Luke 19:42](#)