

**Date: September 24, 2017**

**Sermon Title: Seeking and Spreading Peace**

**Speaker: Richard Smith**

**Scripture text(s): Matthew 5: 9**

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- 1) Richard said, "If men cannot love a perfect God, they won't be able to love imperfect people." Discuss how this impacts our culture and how you see this evidenced in our culture.
  - 2) Discuss the difference between national/global and individual peace. Use the scriptures that Richard used (Ephesians 2:14-16 and John 16:33) to discuss these. What was Jesus' purpose in coming to Earth?
  - 3) How do the Beatitudes display the lifestyle of an individual rather than characteristics of 8 different people? And how are all 8 of the Beatitudes dependent upon one another?
  - 4) Richard asked us the question, "What does it take to be a peacemaker?" Share some situations you've been in that required you to be in a tense conversation in order for that person to experience God's peace. How have you experienced persecution because you are a peacemaker?
  - 5) Richard spoke of three ways we are hostile to God: (1) in our mind, (2) in our will, and (3) by our emotions. In what ways have you seen these in your own life? How can this hostility be "hidden" giving the illusion of being at peace with God?
  - 6) What relationships in your life are broken right now? How can you be the first to step out and seek peace with that person?
  - 7) Richard encouraged us with Romans 12:18--"If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." Give some practical ways you can live this out in your everyday life.
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### **Group Prayer Time:**

Have 1 – 2 people in your group pray through each part of the A.C.T.S. prayer acronym.

1. **Adoration** – How is God's character reflected in this week's passage? Let that revelation lead you to worship and adore God.
2. **Confess** – The Word of God exposes and uncovers sin. Respond to that conviction by agreeing with what God has said about your sin.

3. **Thanksgiving** – Where do you see God working? Thank God for his faithfulness in your life and the lives of others.
4. **Supplication** – God’s Word helps us understand his purposes and plans. Ask God to give you the desires of his heart as you pray for your needs and the needs of others.

### **Pray for Missions:**

This week in your group prayer time, have someone pray for this missions effort. Different missions will be highlighted every week.

**National Missions** – Global Gates...reaching the ends of the earth through global gateway cities. The mission of Global Gates is to see gospel transformation of the world’s most unevangelized people groups who have come to global gateway cities like Baltimore/Washington D.C., Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, NYC, and the San Francisco Bay Area, and through these people groups reach their communities around the world. Hope Point has partnered with Global Gates in NYC to help in their evangelism, discipleship, and church plant efforts among West African Muslims. Check out the Global Gates website <http://www.globalgates.info>.