

You are Here as a *Servant*

Matthew 20:25-28

²⁵ But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ²⁶ **But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant,** ²⁷ **and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave.** ²⁸ **For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

You are Here as a *Peacemaker*

Matthew 5:9 **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”**

- Peacemaking is NOT the absence of conflict.
- A person who glosses over, ignores, minimizes, or steers clear of a problem or a disagreement to avoid discomfort – that person is NOT a peacemaker.
- Jesus never said “blessed are the peacekeepers...”

Peace - *Shalom* is a Hebrew word for peace (“hello” and “goodbye”) that is a broad term related to **health, prosperity, harmony, and wholeness**. It means **perfect welfare, serenity, fulfillment, freedom from trouble, and liberation from anything which hinders contentment**.

When a Jew said “Shalom” they were wishing on another the full presence, peace, and prosperity of all the blessedness of God.

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and protect you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD look with favor on you and give you peace.

- It is important to remember that peace in the Bible is always **based on justice and righteousness**. Without justice prevailing or righteousness ruling, there is no peace!

Maker - comes from the Greek verb that means “to do” or “to make.” It is a word bursting with energy. It calls for action and initiative.

- Peace never happens by chance. A peacemaker is never passive. They always take the initiative. They are up and doing.
- Peacemakers can be uncomfortable, hurtful work (very often peacemaking will create strife);
- Peacemakers aren’t always successful **(Romans 12:18)**
- Peacemakers are committed to love, peace, joy, and hope of God for others.

“Peacemakers are people who produce right relationships in every sphere of life.”

William Barclay

You Are Here as a *Rebuilder* and a *Restorer*

Isaiah 58:6-12

Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. **Let the oppressed go free** and **remove the chains that bind people.** ⁷ **Share your food with the hungry** and **give shelter to the homeless.** **Give clothes to those who need them,** and **do not hide from relatives who need your help.** ⁸ “Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind. ⁹ Then when you call, the Lord will answer. ‘Yes, I am here,’ he will quickly reply. **“Remove the heavy yoke of oppression. Stop pointing your finger and spreading vicious rumors!** ¹⁰ **Feed the hungry** and **help those in trouble.** **Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.** ¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. ¹² Some of **you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities.** Then you will be known as **a rebuilder of walls** and **a restorer of homes.**

- **“STOP** pointing the finger...”
- **Free, lighten burdens, remove chains, share, give, remove yoke of oppression, feed, help those in trouble...**
- **“THEN your light will shine...!”**
- **The Lord will replenish you...**”giving you water when you are dry, restoring your strength”

Romans 12:15 “Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying.”

You are Here for *Others*, Not Yourself

Philippians 2:4-8

Stop looking out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵ **You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.** ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, **he gave up his divine privileges;** he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. **When he appeared in human form,** ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.

- I don’t know how else to convey this...
- *“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: ‘What are you doing for others?’ ” – MLK Jr.*
- *“Measure thy life by loss instead of gain; Not by the wine drunk, but the wine poured forth For love’s strength standeth in love’s sacrifice; And whoso suffers most hath most to give.”*
–Ugo Bassi, *Sermon in the Hospital*

John 12:24-25

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. ²⁵ Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.

Your Time Here is Short

If your life is defined by *Serving*;
If you are *Rebuilding* and *Restoring* the wounds of cities and homes;
If you are *Peace-Making* between people and between people and God;
If your life is not yours, but *Poured Out for Others*;
Then you will be known as Citizens of the Eternal Kingdom
Then, the King will say “Well Done...!”