

Beatitude 7 -- Peacemakers

Every year at Cold Water Pond the frogs and otters had a contest to see who could make the best raft. The judges for the Raft Contest were Admiral Austen, the head otter of the pond, and Sir Stephen, the chief frog of the pond. There were over 300 families of frogs and otters in the little pond and each year twelve of the best rafts were brought to the pond to be considered as the “Best of the Best” and worthy of the title “That’s A Mighty Fine Raft They Made.” The family would have their picture taken with their raft and the picture would go on display in the middle of the town. As people would go by they would shout, “That’s A Mighty Fine Raft They Made.” That’s how the prize got its name...

All the families of the pond planned ahead every year to make their rafts and would start collecting wood and vines months before the contest to make sure that the raft they made was worthy to be considered. For, even to be noticed as one of the top 12 was a great honor.

As you might imagine, some families took the contest way too seriously! They would plot, scheme, and do things that were downright not nice. Has that ever happened to you? Have you ever been playing a game and trying to win so hard that you weren’t nice to the other players. Well, hopefully not, but that’s what often happened at Cold Water Pond. Sometimes you would see otters and frogs fighting over a vine in the woods and you’d think it must be getting close to the Raft Contest again! Sometimes it would take a special type of person to help them stop fighting. This person was called a Peacemaker. What do you think it takes to be a peacemaker? What kind of person do you think that would be?

Yeshua said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” Now Yeshua had more in mind than just stopping people from fighting about a contest or game. Have you ever thought about what peace is all about? We say Shabbat Shalom as we greet each other on Shabbat. We pray for peace and at the end of our Shabbat service we ask “May God bless you...” And end with “...grant you His peace.” This is a family matter! For Yeshua says peacemakers will be called “sons of God.” To God being a peacemaker is a mark of being part of His family. Parents and grandparents talk to your children and grandchildren this week about being a part of God’s family and what that means and about the importance of peace and doing our part to “make” it. Below are a few scriptures to consider as you review what God has given us in His word.

For Further Study: together as families read and consider these topics for discussion:

- 1) John 1:11-13 Consider the importance of family and how those who receive Yeshua become part of God’s family. This is a foundational truth. How does this affect our being peacemakers? It’s a family defining characteristic.
- 2) John 14:23-29 Yeshua taught his disciples – he prepared them in advance. Read and consider differences in what Yeshua gives and what the world gives – in regard to peace.