#1— Peacemakers

Matthew 5:7-12, 38-42

Pastor Shawn Peterson

February 16, 2020

**Big Idea**: Living the Gospel in an upside-down world means you are more concerned with people being at peace with God than anything else.

What mercy do we show?

What purity of heart do we possess?

What peace do we fight for?

Why will this bring persecution?

Why do we rejoice?

**Growth Group Preparation Questions**

For the week of February 16, 2020

Prepare for your Growth Group discussion by taking some time to go through the following Growth Group Questions (G2Qs) and be ready to share your thoughts and answers with your group. Have a great time growing in the Word, growing in relationships, and encouraging one another to find enduring hope in Jesus.

**CONNECT**

1. How have you been persecuted or persecuted others over snow removal?
2. Other than your faith, what have you been made fun of for the most?

**PRAY**

Father, give us a heart to bring people into peace with You.

**DIGGING DEEPER**

1. Reflect on this week's sermon. Was anything particularly impactful for you?
2. Mercy is the withholding of deserved punishment. How are you growing in understanding of God's mercy in your life?

A. In the times when you struggle to show mercy to others, what tends to be the contributing factors?

B. How have you seen receiving mercy lead someone, possibly yourself, toward peace with God?

1. Read Jeremiah 17:9. Respond to the phrase "just follow your heart."

A. How have you seen yourself grow in purity since following Jesus?

B. What areas of your heart are off-limits to the Holy Spirit?

C. How does heart transformation lead others towards peace with God? Do you have an example? 

1. Read 2 Cor. 5:16-20. How are your interactions with others being affected by the knowledge of your role as an ambassador for peace with God? Consider when you are wronged, when you're resolving a customer service issue, when you disagree with a neighbor, etc.
2. What do you think persecution looks like today around the world? Here? In your own life?

A. What specifically is the Holy Spirit calling you to do that might   
 lead to persecution or rejection?

B. How can your reaction to rejection or persecution lead others   
 towards peace with God? How have you experienced this?

6. Who are you praying for with hope to know peace with God?

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

1. God, we praise You for You are merciful.
2. God, thank You for making a way to peace with You through Jesus.
3. God, give us eyes to see how to bring people to peace with You.
4. Group prayer requests. (Pray for previous meeting requests and list new ones below).