

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Tuesday 10th October 2023

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Peacemakers part 1

Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God"

When we see and hear reports of the terrible events in Israel and Gaza, what would it be to be a peacemaker. I suspect, the vast majority of us are not in a position to do anything practically, although a time might come when we might be able to make a donation or contribute in some other way.

We can be peacemakers in three other ways:

Firstly, we must think peace. In the midst of these terrible events, anger and fear are understandable reactions, and so we must be intentional in placing at the forefront of our minds, the need for genuine peace. Violence begets violence, peace is the only way. I will say more about peace, tomorrow.

Secondly, we must pray for peace. We may wonder if our prayers can really make a difference in such a massive and long standing conflict, however, that is where faith comes in. Jesus taught us to pray and not to cease praying. We must pray for those who are on the ground, trying to bring peace. We must pray for all those in leadership, who have the power to bring peace.

Thirdly, we must act in peace. If we want peace to come to areas of conflict in other places, we should strive to be and act in peace, in the areas of conflict (albeit relatively far far smaller) in our lives - in our homes, at work, even in church, and in our local communities. This may not always be possible, but Paul's words in Romans 12:18 are helpful: If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

PRAYER:

Let us pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel.

We remember especially those who have died, those who are grieving, the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies.

We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May they be touched by a spirit of compassion and kindness.

Lord hear us.

- CAFOD