

Blessed are the Peacemakers

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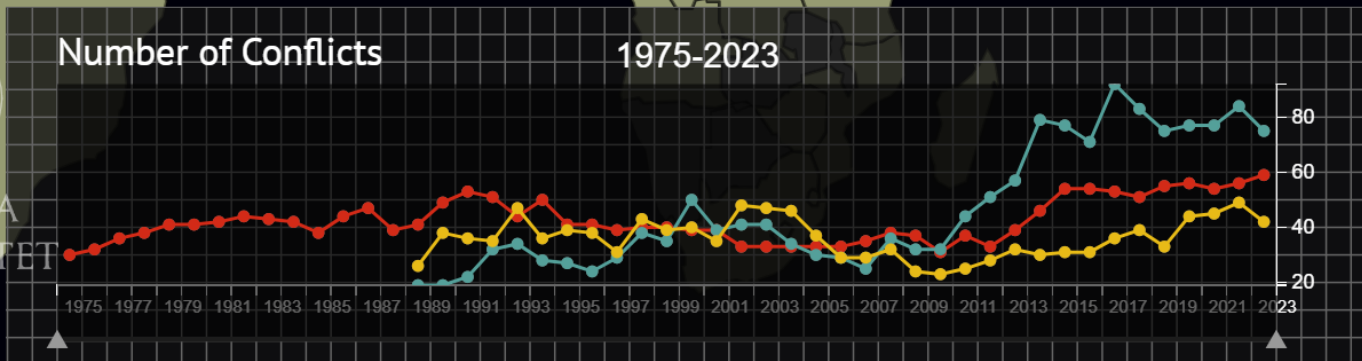
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Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.

Context

- What? Beatitude 7 / “*Beati pacifici*” (Matt 5)
- When? Early in Jesus’ three-year ministry (c. AD 31)
- Where? Near the Galilee

Prince of Peace

- Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah Shalom (Jdg 6:24)
- They shall beat their swords into ploughshares (Isa 2:4)
- He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6)
- Whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also (Matt 5:39)
- He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross (Col 1:20)

Man of War

- The LORD is a man of war (Exo 15:3)
- The LORD your God Himself will fight for you (Deu 3:22)
- God has fought for you (Jos 23:3)
- The LORD mighty in battle (Psa 24:8)
- Beat your ploughshares into swords (Joel 3:10)
- Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? (Luke 12:51)
- With righteousness He judges and wages war (Rev 19:11)

Man of War

The Lord mighty in battle

Beat your swords
into ploughshares

I come not to bring peace
but a sword

With righteousness
He judges and wages war

Prince of Peace

Jehovah Shalom

Beat your ploughshares
into swords

For Christ himself has
brought peace to us

Gentle and riding
on a donkey

Peacemakers are not appeasers

- Principled
- Proactive
- Prudent

So what is the everyday Christian to do?

- Make peace with thy God
- Make peace with thyself
- Make peace with thy foe

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How to obtain peace with God?

- Justice





Leviticus 11:44

I am the LORD your God;
consecrate yourselves and be holy,
because I am holy.



Isaiah 64:6

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.

How to obtain peace with God?

- Justice
- Repentance



How to maintain peace with God?

- There is such a thing as a Cold Peace



How to maintain peace with God?

- Complete surrender
- Continual surrender





Luke 14:31

What king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?



Luke 14:32

And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

Make peace with thy God

- Repentance
- Complete surrender
- Continual surrender



So what is the everyday Christian to do?

- Make peace with thy God
- Make peace with thyself
- Make peace with thy foe



Isaiah 46:4

Even to your old age and gray hairs
I am he, I am he who will sustain
you. I have made you and I will
carry you; I will sustain you and I will
rescue.

What loving yourself is not

- Self-importance
- Self-righteousness
- Indulgence





Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.





John 21:19

After Jesus said this, He said to Peter, "Follow Me."





1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety on him
because he cares for you.

Make peace with thyself

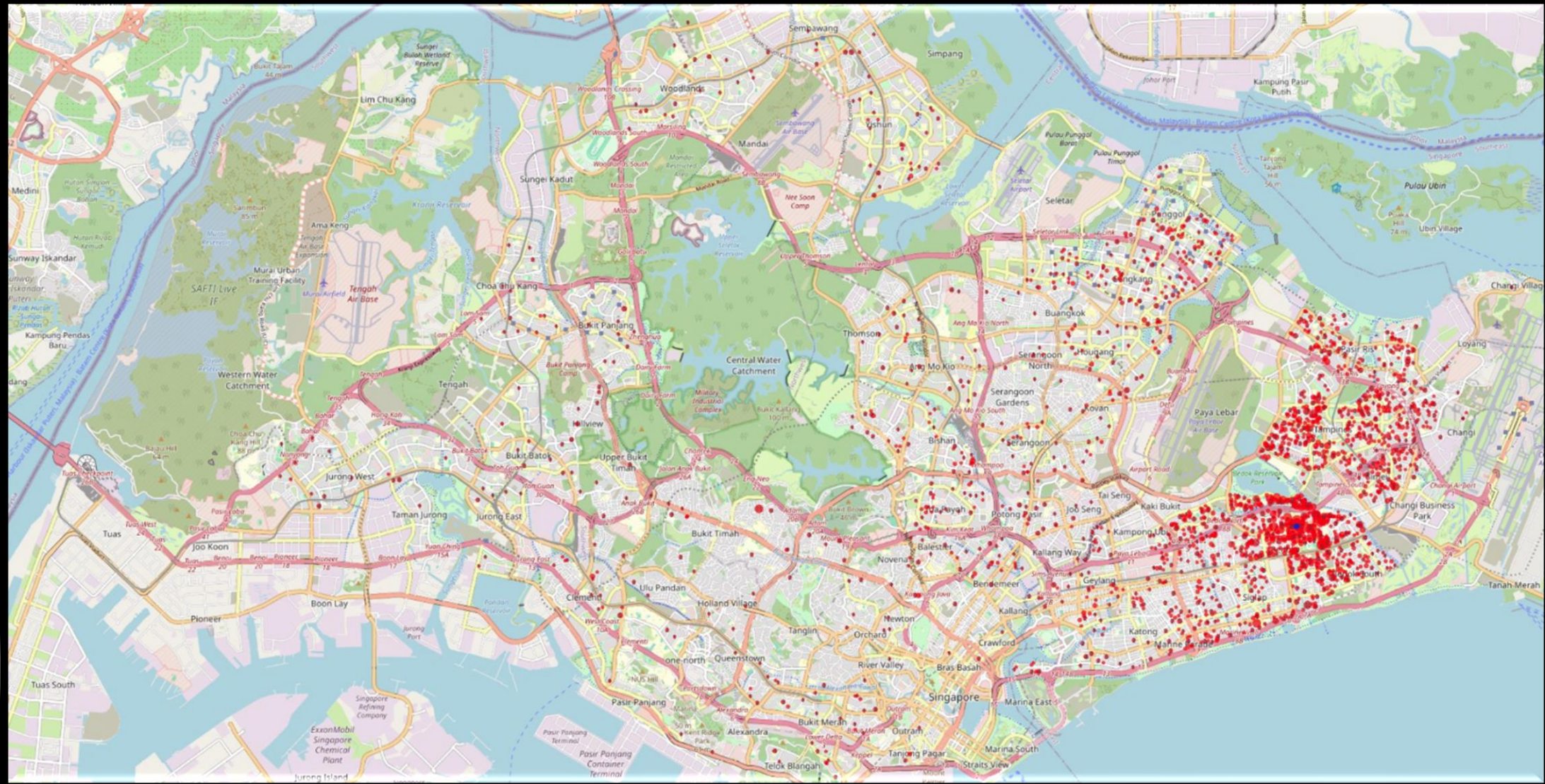
- Knowing that you are forgiven and loved by God, forgive and love yourself



So what is the everyday Christian to do?

- Make peace with thy God
- Make peace with thyself
- Make peace with thy foe





Make peace with thy foe

- Principled: hate the sin, not the sinner
- Proactive: don't *siam*
- Prudent: be wise
- Prayerful





James 3:17

But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peace-loving, gentle, accommodating, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere.



James 3:18

Peacemakers who sow in peace
reap a harvest of righteousness.



Psalm 126:5

They that sow in tears
shall reap in joy.



Romans 12:18

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.



0613	Woke up late	Pray anyway
0845	Crowded train	See past the faces
1015	Lousy presentation	Resolve to improve
1341	Lunchtime	Grace and fellowship
1511	Pantry	A word to build
1801	Late for kids	Safety and kindness
1915	Dinnertime quarrel	Build bridges
2130	Kids still up	Family QT anyway
2315	Difficult e-mail	Seek God's wisdom
0034	Too tired to stay up	Rest in God

So what is the everyday Christian to do?

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- Make peace with thy foe