

HAPPY ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

David A. Renwick
Sermon Quotes
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1. Matthew 5:21-26, 38-48

- 21“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘**You shall not murder**’; and ‘**whoever murders shall be liable to judgment**.’
22But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire.
23So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.
25Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. 26Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

2. Thomas Friedman, The Earth is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century, pp. 399-403 (Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 2005);, 2005.

This humiliation is key. It has always been my view that terrorism is not spawned by the poverty of money. It is spawned by the poverty of dignity.

Humiliation is the most underestimated force in international relations and in human relations. It is when people or nations are humiliated that they really lash out and engage in extreme violence.

When you take the economic and political backwardness of many of the Arab Muslim world today, add its past grandeur and self-image of religious superiority . . . you have powerful cocktail of rage.

As one of my friends, the Egyptian playwright, Ali Salem, said of the 911 hijackers, they are, ‘*walking the streets of life, searching for tall buildings, for towers to bring down, because they are not able to be tall like them.*’

3. **Thomas à Kempis, The Imitation of Christ (2,3) (c.1380-1471)**

Everyone prefers a life that is peaceful
and enjoys people whose habits are congenial.
But to be able to *live at peace with harsh and perverse people*,
or with *the undisciplined* and *those who irritate us*,
is a great grace, and a praiseworthy . . . thing.

But if you want to be like this, and to live at peace with others,
First, you must be at peace with yourself;

A peaceful person does more good than a learn-ed one.
The person who is at perfect ease is never suspicious,
but the disturbed and discontented are upset by many a suspicion;
he or she neither rests in himself nor permits others to do so.

Some people *are never* at peace with themselves
nor do they bring it to anyone else.
These latter are a burden to everyone,
but they are more of a burden to themselves.

A few, finally, live at peace with themselves
and try to restore it to others.
Indeed, all our peace in this life, with all its sadness,
is found in humbly enduring suffering rather than in being free from it.
He who knows best how-to-suffer will enjoy the greater peace,
because he is the conqueror of himself, the master of the world,
a friend of Christ, and an heir of heaven.