

A digital illustration of Jesus sitting on a rocky hillside, looking out over a city at sunset. He is wearing a white robe and a white shawl. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun, with the city below appearing as a silhouette against the bright sky. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Blessed are the Peacemakers
Matthew 5:9



*“You, sorrowing mother, you, widowed wife, you, the son who lost a brother or a father, all the victims of wars, fill the air and space with recitals of peace, fill bosoms and hearts with the aspirations of peace. Make a reality that blossoms and lives. Make hope a code of conduct and endeavor.” -
Anwar El-Sadat*

A Harvest of Righteousness

- **James 3:18** - And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Blessed are the Peacemakers

- **Matthew 5:9** - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Peace Starts with YOU

- **James 3:17** - But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.
- **Romans 12:2** - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.¹
- **2 Timothy 1:7** - For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

I HATE EVERYTHING!
I HATE THE
WHOLE WORLD!



I THOUGHT YOU HAD
INNER PEACE



I DO



BUT I STILL HAVE
OUTER OBNOXIOUSNESS!



3 Steps to Inner Peace

1. Ask
2. Pray
3. Accept God's Will

Follow the Example of Jesus

- **Matthew 26:39-42** - And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, **My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.**⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour?⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. **The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**”⁴² Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

Rebellion Prevents Peace

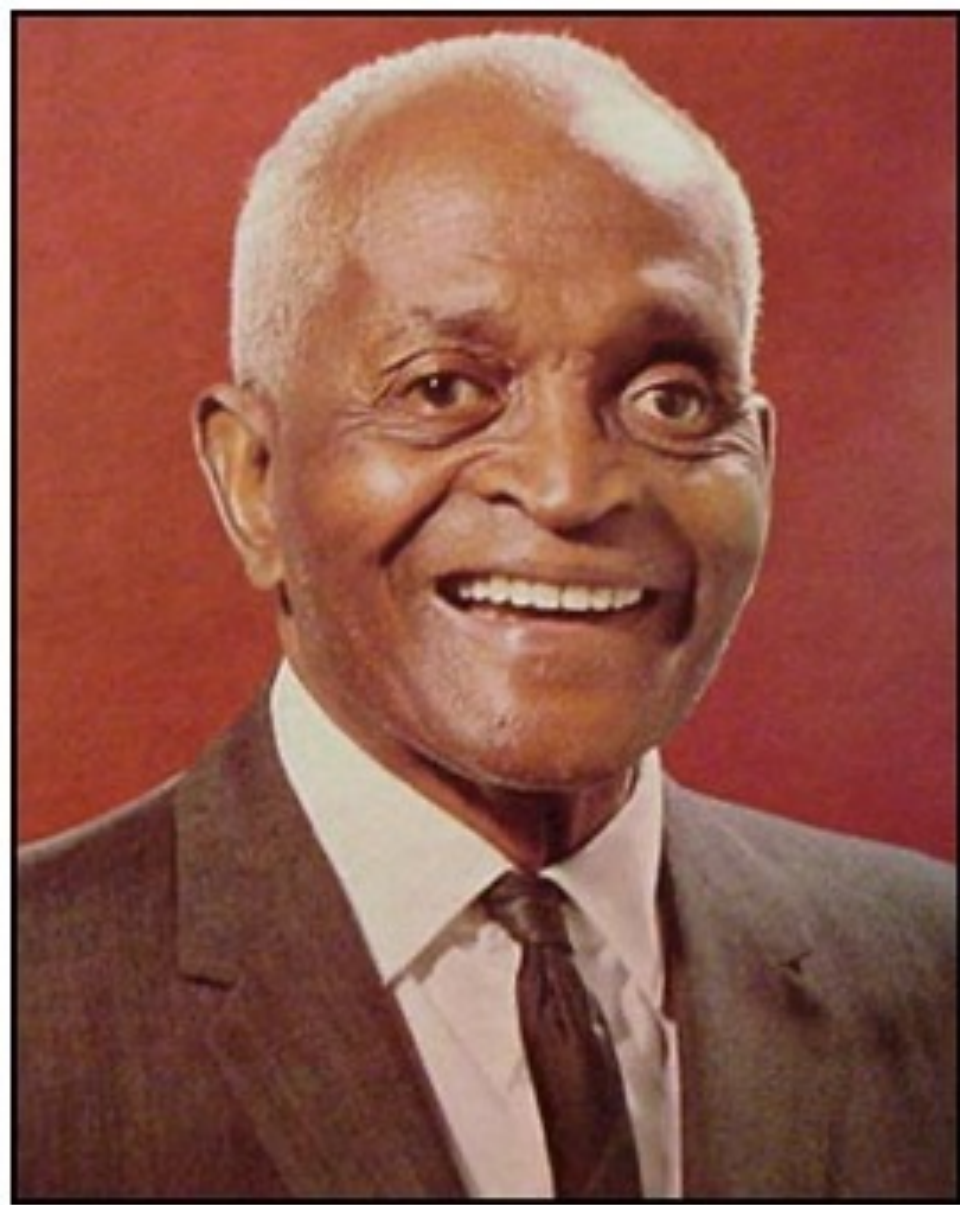
- **Romans 1:28** - *And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.*
- **Romans 8:7-8** - *For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Ambassadors for Christ

- **2 Corinthians 5:20** - Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Set the Example

- **2 Peter 3:13-17** - ¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.



“You’ve got a book and you can take that book and conquer the world, but you can’t do it with it under your arm. You’ve got to have it in your heart.”

Marshall Keeble

The Ministry of Reconciliation

- **2 Corinthians 5:17-21** - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Only One Path to Peace and Reconciliation

- **John 14:6** - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- **Colossians 3:5-11** - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Peace of Jesus

- **John 14:27** - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
- **John 16:33** - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”