

## Activate Group Resource for 27 May 2018 (Matt 5:9 – Brett Mann)

### Big Ideas:

- We are to be peacemakers.
- Standing up for justice is vital if people are to be open to hearing the gospel.
- We are to resist the tendency to be people pleasers by saying nothing, or going along with the crowd.

### Key Scripture:

*Matt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.*

As children of God, children of our loving Father, part of the family likeness is that we are to be peacemakers.

Wiremu Tāmihana's commitment to Christ moved him beyond utu and the endless cycle of revenge, to forgiveness, reconciliation and peacemaking. He refused to be a 'people pleaser'. He resisted the wishes of his father, Rewi Maniopotō, and his own tribe to instead please God by being a peacemaker.

Peace is not made by *avoiding* conflict and injustice but by *resolving* conflict and injustice. He had to take risks to bring about peace and we, too, will have to take risks in our lives to make peace.

The majority of Christians did not stand up against the injustice of the land wars. They did not stand against the devastating land confiscations. And the fallout of this in Māoridom is still felt strongly today and interferes with Māori hearing the gospel. It's very important Christians stand up for justice in bicultural relations and other areas of our day to day lives if people are to be open to hearing the gospel of the kingdom.

*For I, the Lord love justice. Isa 61:8.*

*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Psa 97:2*

### Discussion Questions:

- Are there any areas in your life and sphere of influence where standing up for justice or peace-making is needed? E.g. in your family, your work place or in your wider social circle.
- What are the risks?
- Is there anything else that stops you from making a start?
  
- How do you respond when issues of the place of Māori and other cultures in Aotearoa arise?

### Application:

- How can you begin the process?