

“The Beatitudes (part 3)”

Matthew 5:1-12

Open: Review the purpose and meaning of the Beatitudes

- **Blessed** = To be happy, happy; to receive a double blessing. (*This doesn't imply an easy life, but it does mean an individual can receive the joy of learning to be content in any situation; as well as an enjoyment of receiving the rewards for obedience.*)
- Many Christians do not receive the full benefit of the Christian life because they stop doing what God can bless. They are dissatisfied with the current circumstances. (*Being a child of God does not eliminate your problems, it gives you access to special blessings while facing the difficulties of life.*)
- Joy in life comes by way of choosing to accept the current circumstances that were brought into my life by God. (*A double blessing is received by those who choose to not only accept the current circumstances, but they also choose to obey during the times of difficulty.*)

Tran: Review of last week's lesson

- Blessed, (happy, happy), are the Meek: for they shall inherit the earth. **vs. 5**
 - Meekness = Not feeling superior nor is it feeling inferior; One who lives their life in comparison to God and not to those around them or in lieu of the current circumstances.
 - God wants His children to live their life in comparison to Him and not those around them or in lieu of the circumstances in which they find themselves.
- Blessed, (happy, happy), are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. **vs. 6**
 - Do no desire for yourself the good things in life; desire for God to give you the best things in life. (This will require an individual to submit himself to the will of God through obedience to the Word of God.)
 - Stay full on the good things of God so you don't seek the bitter things of the world.

I. Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain Mercy. (vs. 7)

- **Mercy = Not getting what we do deserve.**

A. Understanding Biblical mercy.

- i. Biblical mercy is based on truth not emotions. It allows for true justice to be carried out. God's justice demands payment for sin; but His mercy allows for leniency in the carrying out of the sentence. **Prov. 3:3** *“Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart.”*
- ii. Biblical mercy is not a covering up of sin or a forgoing of punishment for a crime. Mercy allows for a sentence to be passed with leniency. **(Rom. 2:4)**
 1. **Prov. 16:6** *“By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.”*
 2. **Ps. 51:1-4** *“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. [2] Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. [3] For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. [4] Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.”*
- iii. Biblical mercy is a renewable spiritual resource. **Lam. 3:22-23** *“It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. [23] They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

- B. Those who show mercy will be recipients of mercy themselves; but those who forget the mercy shown unto them will find themselves being judged accordingly. **Matt. 18:21-35**
- i. In this story we find an individual being shown mercy regarding a huge debt. **vs. 23-27**
 - ii. This individual who was forgiven does not show mercy to someone in his life who owed him money; and he finds himself paying the consequences. **vs. 28-34**
 - iii. When we do not forgive one another, we will find ourselves being treated accordingly. **vs. 35**
- C. Being merciful is more important to God than the keeping of religious traditions. **Matt. 23:23**
- i. God is more concerned with how we treat those around us, than how we appear to those around us. **Matt. 23:24-29**
 - ii. In God's eyes, the test of true Christianity is not how much you have obtained in the Christian life; but by how much you're distributing what you have obtained.
 - Those who live their lives showing mercy will find themselves being recipients of mercy when they need it.

II. **Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. (vs.8)**

- **Pure = Free from impurities; free from guilt; untainted, chaste, or virgin.** (**Eph. 5:25-27**)

- A. We understand that as sinners we are not pure on our own.
- i. **It requires the blood of Christ.** **Heb. 10:10-22**
 - ii. **It requires the Word of God.** **Ps. 119:9-11** *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. [10] With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. [11] Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”*
 - iii. **It requires separation from what God calls impure.** **II Cor. 6:14-17** *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? [15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? [16] And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [17] Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”*
 - iv. **It will require a trial of Faith.** **Mal. 3:3** *“And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.”*
 - **ILL: The three Hebrew boys.** **Job 23:1** *“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”*
 - v. **It will require and act of God.** **Ps. 51:7** *“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”*

B. The only way to get a true view of who God is, is by getting close to Him; and the only way to get close to God is by remaining pure. **Ps. 24:3-5** “*Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? [4] He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. [5] He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*”

- i. Pure Heart – We are to not allow our emotions to cause us to chase impurities; but rather we are to flee youthful lusts. **II Tim. 2:21-22** “*If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work. [22] Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*”
- ii. Pure mind – Those who live with a clean mind will think clean thoughts; but those who have a dirty mind will find perversion in everything. **Titus 1:15-16** “*Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. [16] They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*”
- iii. Pure Religion – Many never get a true picture of who God is because they have a tainted view of religion. **James 1:25-27** “*But whoso **looketh** into the perfect law of liberty, and **continueth** therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be **blessed** in his deed.[26] If any man among you **seem** to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain. [27] Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to **keep himself unspotted** from the world.”
 - “Pure religion is not about how good I am; but about what good I am doing for those around me.”*

Ps. 119:1

“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.”

“Review Questions”

1. What does the word *Blessed* mean? **Happy, Happy.**
2. What does the word *Mercy* mean? **Not getting what we do deserve.**
3. What does the word *Pure* mean? **Free from impurities; free from guilt; untainted, chaste, or virgin.**
4. Those who show mercy will find themselves receiving **????** when they need it? **Mercy.**
5. What 3 things in the Bible will allow a person to be pure in God’s eyes? **The blood of Christ; the Word of God;** and **being separated from what God calls impure.**