

The Beatitudes

Lesson 5

“Blessed Are The Merciful”

Introduction.

1. As with all the beatitudes, the fifth beatitude is most important to true and lasting happiness.
2. It logically follows the previous four beatitudes.
 - a. The **first beatitude** stressed one must recognize his **spiritual destitution**, and his own righteousness cannot save.
 - 1) Good works, wealth, power, education, fame, reputation, etc. cannot save.
 - 2) None of these things can atone for sin.
 - 3) Only the blood of Jesus can cleanse one from sin.
 - b. The **second beatitude** sets forth that one should **mourn over his wretched state**, and if this sorrow is godly sorrow it will end with comfort.
 - 1) Boasting about sin or rationalizing [as not so bad] or denying sin will not save.
 - 2) It is not enough even to regret sin and be sorrowful over sin. (2 Cor. 7:10)

2 Cor 7:10 For the sorrow that is according to {the will} {of} God produces a repentance without regret, {leading} to salvation, but **the sorrow of the world produces death.**

- 3) One must have godly sorrow, a realization he/she has sinned against God.
 - 4) This godly sorrow must lead to repentance. (2 Cor. 7:10).
 - c. The **third beatitude** reads, “Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.” (Matt. 5:5).
 - 1) It stresses this mourning [godly sorrow] will lead one to be humbly submissive to God and to be gentle to others.
 - 2) James 1:21 should be carefully studied and obeyed.

James 1:21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and {all} that remains of wickedness, **in humility** receive the word implanted [deeply rooted word], which is able to save your souls.

- d. The **fourth beatitude** sets forth that the one who is submissive to God will hunger and thirst for righteousness.
 - 1) The person who intently seeks “righteousness” [hungers and thirsts for justification] will be saved [satisfied].
 - 2) Having a lukewarm desire for “justification” or pleasing God will leave a person unsaved and separated from

God.

3) It will also result in others not being saved.

4) Those who do not hunger and thirst for righteousness will seldom, if ever, share it with others.

e. **This brings us the fifth beatitude emphasizing the importance of mercy.**

f. Those trusting in Christ have received mercy and to continue to receive it they must be merciful.

Fifth Beatitude

MAT 5:7 "Blessed [happy] are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

- “eleemon” [el eh **ay** mohn] appears twice in the New Testament and means “merciful.” (Matt. 5:7; Heb. 2:17).
 - Greek “eleeo” [eh leh **eh** oh] means “to show pity, have compassion.”
1. To be truly blessed [truly happy] **we must** be merciful people!
 - a. Out of Jesus’ mercy He came to earth.
 - b. Mankind was wicked. (Rom. 3:10, 12).
 - c. Jesus was merciful to all who sincerely sought mercy and He even extended mercy to those not seeking it.
 - d. He showed mercy to the poor, the penitent, the hungry, the sick, the handicapped, Samaritans, Gentiles, etc.
 2. God’s children are happy having received God’s undeserved blessings including unmerited forgiveness.
 - a. God’s mercy brings peace of mind and happiness to those who have accepted God’s grace.
 - b. God’s mercy **gives the Christian assurance** of everlasting life with God and His Son in heaven.
 - c. We can be confident in salvation due to God’s mercy - not by our merit.

Here Are A Few Ways We Are To Show Mercy.

1. Forgiving others

- a. Matthew 18:21-35

Peter’s Question

Matt 18:21 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

Jesus’ Answer

Matt 18:22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Parable Of Unmerciful Servant

Matt 18:23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

Matt 18:24 "When he had begun to settle {them,} one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

A talent is worth more than 15 years of wages from the common laborer and 10,000 talents was 150,000 years of labor.

Matt 18:25 "But since he did not have {the means} to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.

Matt 18:26 "So the slave fell {to the ground} and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.'

Matt 18:27 "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.

Matt 18:28 "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and {began} to choke {him,} saying, '**Pay back what you owe.**' One hundred denarii was 100 days of wages.

Matt 18:29 "So his fellow slave fell {to the ground} and {began} to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'

Matt 18:30 "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

Matt 18:31 "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.

The King

Matt 18:32 "Then summoning him, his lord [the king] said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

Matt 18:33 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'

Matt 18:34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.

Matt 18:35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

b. Paul gave this admonition to Christians since they have been forgiven. (Eph. 4:32).

Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

1) God has shown great kindness to us in Christ His Son.

2) God remembers our forgiven sins no more and gives us great spiritual blessings.

3) The way we return that kindness is showing kindness to others even those we do not believe deserve it.

2. Helping others

a. Luke 10:35-37

The Lawyer

Luke 10:25 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Luke 10:26 And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?"

Luke 10:27 And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

b. After the lawyer rightly repeated the two great commandment, Jesus spoke these words. (Lk. 10:28-37).

Parable Of The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:28 And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE."

Luke 10:29 But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10:30 Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.

Luke 10:31 "And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

Luke 10:32 "Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

Luke 10:33 "But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,

Luke 10:34 and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on {them;} and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

Luke 10:35 "On the next day **he took out two denarii** and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.'

Luke 10:36 "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' {hands?}"

Luke 10:37 And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

c. James 2:13-17; 1 John. 3:17,18.

James 2:13 For judgment {will be} merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs [is victorious] over judgment.

James 2:14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

James 2:15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

James 2:16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for {their} body, what use is that?

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, {being} by itself.

John's Instruction To Christians

1 John 3:17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

1 John 3:18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

Verse 18 is an example of an ellipsis and should be understood "with word only" or "with tongue only."

3. Restoring the Lost (Gal. 6:1, 2; Jas.5:19, 20).

Gal 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; {each one} looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

James 5:19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,

James 5:20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

a. God will be merciful to the one restoring the sinner and to the sinner being restored.

b. Verse 20 can be understood either way or in both ways.

4. Preaching to Lost (Mk 16:15).

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

a. As Christ's disciples we have been given the mandate to preach the gospel to the whole world.

- b. If we refused to obey this mandate, the world will remain lost in sin.
- c. No one else will rescue those who are spiritually perishing.
- d. Though we have a mandate to share the gospel with others, those who are truly merciful should not need a mandate to share the gospel with others.
- e. Sharing the gospel to the whole world is too big a job for a few people, but it requires all Christians to share the gospel with others.

5. Remembering The Poor

- a. Gal. 2:10

Gal 2:10 {They} only {asked} us to remember the poor--the very thing I also was eager to do.

- 1) "Remember" does not simply mean we recognize there are poor people in desperate need in hope.
- 2) It means we are to help them. (Gal. 6:10).

- b. Matt. 25:41-46

Matt 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

Matt 25:42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me {nothing} to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink;

Matt 25:43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'

Matt 25:44 "Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'

Matt 25:45 "Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

Matt 25:46 "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

6. Encouraging Others (1 Thess. 5:11,14; Tit. 2:4; Heb. 3:13).

1 Thess 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Thess 5:14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Titus 2:4 so that they [the older women] may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

Heb 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is {still} called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

- a. All of us can and should be encouragers.
- b. All of us must be encouragers to please God.

Motives For Showing Mercy

- 1. We should be merciful **to be like God**.

2. We should be merciful **to follow Jesus and the teachings of Christ.**

3. We should be merciful because **we have received mercy from God and others.** (Tit. 3:4-7; Eph. 2:4-5; Matt. 18:35).

Titus 3:4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and {His} love for mankind appeared,

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Titus 3:6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Titus 3:7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to {the} hope of eternal life.

Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Matt 18:35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

4. We should be merciful because of **the joy received from showing mercy.** (Lk. 15:7,10).

Luke 15:7 "I tell you that in the same way, there will be {more} joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Luke 15:10 "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

a. Angels rejoice over sinners repenting.

b. God's people rejoice when sinners come to the Lord.

c. There is immense joy in bringing others to Christ.

5. We should be merciful to others because **showing mercy is a condition for our receiving mercy.** (Jas. 2:13).

James 2:13 For judgment {will be} merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

a. All of us want God's mercy - not what we deserve.

b. Knowing we need God's mercy should motivate us to constantly be merciful to others.

6. We should show mercy because **we want others to be merciful to us.** (Matt. 7:12).

Matt 7:12 "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Conclusion.

1. The next beatitude is of great importance to those who desire true and lasting happiness.

2. We will carefully examine the sixth beatitude that tells us how to be happy and it gives one of the great promises given to those who obey it.

Matt 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

3. How happy this should make us knowing that one day “we shall see God.”
4. Seeing God and knowing we will be with Him forever in Paradise will be excitement and happiness that cannot be fully or even partially realized now.
5. **It is impossible for us to fathom what it will be like to see God and be with Him forever.**

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