

*The Blessed Life*

HAPPY ARE THE MERCIFUL



Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Matthew 5:7 (KJV)



# Inward Principle → Outward Manifestation

- The first four beatitudes deal entirely with inner principles, principles of the heart and mind.
- The last four beatitudes are outward manifestations of the first four inner principles.



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# The MEANING of Mercy

- Merciful: *To give help to the afflicted and rescue the helpless. Mercy is compassion in action.*
- Mercy is meeting needs. Mercy does more than *feel* compassion it *shows* compassion.
- Mercy is giving food to the hungry, comfort to the bereaved, and love to the rejected, forgiveness to the offender, and companionship to the lonely.



# Mercy and Grace

- Mercy and grace share a close relationship, yet they are different.
- Mercy deals with the effects of sin, grace deals with the root of sin.
- Mercy dealt with pain while grace provides a cure.



# Mercy and Justice

- Mercy is related to justice, although, on the surface the two seem incompatible.
- God does not show mercy without punishing sin; for him to offer mercy without punishment would negate his justice.
- God's justice is satisfied by Calvary and mercy is extended to the sinner. Justice and mercy embrace one another at the Cross.



# We Practice Mercy Physically

<sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup>And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

James 2:15-16 (KJV)



# We Practice Mercy with our Attitude

- We don't hold grudges, harbor resentment, capitalize on another's weakness, or publish the sins of others.
- When Noah became drunk and passed out naked in his tent, his sons showed mercy when they walked backwards to cover him up.



# We Practice Mercy Spiritually

- By interceding over lost souls...mercy prays for those who are lost.
- By confronting sin...mercy does not ignore the sins of others; it confronts sin in an attempt to save.



# The CYCLE of Mercy

- Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
- James 2:13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.



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