



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

**“Blessed Are Those Who
Pursue Righteousness and
Extend Mercy”
Matthew 5:6-7**

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

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Introduction

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B. I fear we often do not think of the significance and biblical meaning of “blessed” (makarios). This word is found nine times in the Beatitudes.

Introduction

C. To be blessed is not a superficial feeling of happiness based on circumstances, but a deep supernatural experience of contentedness based on the fact that your life is right with God. Only people who have been born again are truly blessed.

Introduction

**D. “All Christians are to be like this. All Christians are meant to manifest all of these characteristics. None of these descriptions refers to what we call a natural tendency”
(Martin Lloyd-Jones).**

Introduction

E. The opening verses of the Sermon on the Mount have all pointed to our need before our holy God. First, if you’re going to be happy spiritually in God you must recognize your spiritual poverty before Him. You must understand that you are saved by grace through faith and salvation is God’s gift to you.

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G. Third, you will have an attitude of humility and submission to God. This lowliness or meekness is humble strength, not a lack of backbone. It includes submission to God's will and being gentle toward others.

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I. While we do need to discover the depths of our need before God, He does not intend for our lives to be paralyzed by our sense of need.

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J. God intends that we turn away from ourselves to His righteousness, and having received His righteousness, we should turn toward others to extend His mercy to them.

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K. Big Idea: The blessed are to pursue righteousness and extend mercy.

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Matthew 5:6

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for righteousness.”**

**B. “Blessed” means happy, fortunate, blissful.
Here it speaks of more than superficial
emotion. Jesus was describing the divinely
bestowed well-being that belongs only to the
faithful.**

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D. We pursue happiness in possessions, people, places, and power. And none of these will satisfy the longing of your soul. They cannot.

I. The Blessed Will Pursue Righteousness (5:6)

**E. No. Christians will hunger and thirst for
righteousness.**

I. The Blessed Will Pursue Righteousness (5:6)

F. “There are large numbers of people in the Christian Church who seem to spend the whole of their life seeking something which they never find, seeking for some kind of happiness or blessedness. They go around from meeting to meeting, and convention to convention, always hoping they are going to get this wonderful thing, this experience that is going to fill them with joy, and flood them with ecstasy. They see that other people have had it, but they themselves do not seem to get it....Now that is not surprising. We are not meant to hunger and thirst after experiences; we are not meant to hunger and thirst after blessedness. If we want to be truly happy and blessed we must hunger and thirst after righteousness. We must not put blessedness or happiness or experience in the first place” (Martin Lloyd-Jones).

I. The Blessed Will Pursue Righteousness (5:6)

G. What is righteousness? In this context it is the desire to be free from all sin. It is the desire to be holy. It is the desire to walk in fellowship with God. It is the longing and desire to be like the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

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G. What is righteousness? In this context it is the desire to be free from all sin. It is the desire to be holy. It is the desire to walk in fellowship with God. It is the longing and desire to be like the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

H. To “hunger and thirst for righteousness” speaks of strong desire, of driving pursuit, of a determined passion to be more like Christ.

I. The Blessed Will Pursue Righteousness (5:6)

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J. “To hunger and thirst for righteousness” is to have an insatiable appetite, an intense longing, to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29).

I. The Blessed Will Pursue Righteousness (5:6)

K. “For they shall be satisfied.” This satisfaction happens instantly when you are saved and progressively as you are being sanctified. Sanctification commences at conversion and deepens with discipleship. And this promise is fulfilled perfectly in eternity when you see Jesus face to face.

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L. The blessed will pursue righteousness.

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Matthew 5:7

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B. Believers in Jesus ARE blessed. They are happy in fellowship with God. They experience deep, supernatural contentedness in Christ.

II. The Blessed Will Extend Mercy (6:7)

A. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

B. Believers in Jesus ARE blessed. They are happy in fellowship with God. They experience deep, supernatural contentedness in Christ.

C. This verse presents us with a problem. Does Jesus say that we will receive mercy only if we ourselves are merciful?

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E. Jesus is saying that being merciful is the result of receiving Christ and experiencing the grace and mercy of God.

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G. If we do not extend mercy to others, we reveal that we either understand little of that mercy by which we have been saved or else have never actually received it.

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I. Mercy is grace in action. “Mercy is a loving response prompted by the misery and helplessness of the one on whom the love is to be showered. Grace answers to the undeserving; mercy answers to the miserable” (D. A. Carson).

II. The Blessed Will Extend Mercy (6:7)

J. “Mercy involves more than generous giving to the needy. It also involves forgiving others for their sins as an expression of gratitude to God for His gracious forgiveness” (Chuck Quarles).

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Conclusion

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B. In another respect, however, the Beatitudes show us a progression. The first three beatitudes show how a person must stand in his relation as a sinner to God—spiritually bankrupt, grieving over sin, and meekly humble.

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C. The fourth beatitude describes the promise of God's provision of righteousness for the person who humbly calls on Him.

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D. It is logical then that the remaining beatitudes will reveal the transformed character of the person who has been saved and is progressively being remade in the image of Christ.

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E. Have you acknowledged your spiritual bankruptcy before God? Do you grieve over your sin? Have you surrendered to the lordship of Christ? Are you trusting in God's provision of righteousness?

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F. If not, call on the name of the Lord today and be saved. "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Conclusion

G. The Gospel Definition

The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.

Conclusion

G. The Gospel Definition

H. Christian, what impact are you making for Christ and His kingdom?

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20