

Sermon on the Mount Series

The Beatitudes - Part 2

Am I Merciful?

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

- All who call on Jesus obtain mercy for the debt of sin they owe.
 - Praise God!
 - But what about after we've obtained that mercy from God?
 - God knows my heart, and showing mercy is a struggle for me.
 - Instead, I lash out when someone tries to hurt me or has hurt me.
 - Even those I claim to love.

- While I have obtained God's eternal mercy, why do I disregard His temporal mercy?
 - I don't think about being merciful because I don't see my need for mercy.
 - I am either too self-righteous to see that I'm still one who struggles with sin,
 - or I'm too carnal and unwilling to give up the sin I'm enjoying in that season and have no desire for God's mercy.
 - On either account I've racked up some sowing.
 - "Be not deceived, God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

- I hate it when the crop from that sowing comes in.
- What I find wonderful about this verse is the promise of temporal mercy.
 - If I just show mercy, I will get mercy.
 - It's simple, but I still want to explain.
 - God is in control of what my sowing yields, not me.
 - Principle #9 in RU was, "When we give into temptation, we lose our right to choose. The consequences of our sins are inevitable, incalculable, and up to God".
 - So, wouldn't I be wise to beg for mercy?
 - Well, I can beg till I'm blue in the face, and receive no mercy if I am not willing to show mercy.
 - Thank God for his teaching me to be meek, and hunger after His righteousness, otherwise I might think I'm something special, and that I shouldn't allow you to treat me any other way.
 - Am I merciful? No, but God is, and He can show me how give mercy to others, as He has given me.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

- What does it mean to be "pure in heart"?
 - First, I believe the beatitudes are sequential and that they are like the fruit of the spirit in that in order to show any of them you will show all of them
 - We cannot be pure in heart without something filtering out what is not pure, enter the Holy Spirit (vs. 3)
 - We cannot be pure in heart if we are not broken over our sin and turning from it unto Christ

- We cannot be pure in heart if we will cannot show that we are no better than any other in need of ALL that Christ is (meek)
- We cannot be pure in heart if we are not being filled with the righteousness of Christ
- We cannot be pure in heart if we have anger, bitterness, wrath or malice towards any other human being
- Being pure in heart is having the heart of Christ...need help?
 - **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.
 - **What we fill ourselves with will come out...**
- **If we desire to see God in our life, God is what we will fill our life with**
 - One who is pure in heart will not see the temptation as an opportunity to fulfill a fleshly desire but will see an opportunity to flee to Christ!
 - One who is pure in heart will not see the size of the trial or the difficulty of the circumstance, but they will seize the opportunity to see God move
 - One who is pure in heart will not see someone who opposes their position as an enemy, but an opportunity to respond and love like Christ, which brings us to verse 9

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

- This is not about going around and breaking up fights or solving disputes
- Being a peacemaker is about bring others to a place of peace with the Holy Righteous Judge of Heaven
 - If we are going to be the children of God, we are going to bring others to Christ
 - This is the product of all the other beatitudes to this point...
 - You have His spirit
 - You are broken over YOUR sin
 - You are fully aware of your brokenness yet striving to know Christ
 - You are being filled with His righteousness
 - You are showing the mercy you have known
 - You are filtering life though the Holy Spirit to walk in holiness and purity
 - You have a unrelenting desire to see others come to know Christ
 - See...sequential

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

- I think it best to let someone who sat and listened to this sermon spoken by Christ, who then lived it and learned it the hard way speak on this beatitude...
 - **1Peter 4:12** Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial, which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:
 - 13** But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.
 - 14** If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.
 - 15** But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.
 - 16** Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.
 - 17** For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?
 - 18** And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?
 - 19** Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.
- Jesus told us we would suffer if we followed Him...
 - So, why do we think that life is supposed to be easy?
 - Because Jesus also said...
 - **Matthew 11:28** Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

- The persecution is not to hurt us or make repent following Christ
- It is an opportunity to realize Who it is that is actually being hurt and persecuted as He is walking with/for us and we can rest in knowing that He will not fail