

The Beatitudes (3)
www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: What does God really want from us?

- A. We noted last lessons that the beatitudes describe the component parts of the Christian's heart. **(Mt 5:1-12)**
 - 1. These are not mere random thoughts but rather a description of the kind of heart that pleases God.
 - 2. Too often we think God will be pleased with things and accomplishments alone. In this we are greatly mistaken! **(Micah 6:6-8)**
- B. We are now seeing the fruits of the character of God manifested in our lives. **(Rom 8:29)**
 - 1. "The first four beatitudes look toward God, the next three toward men. Mercifulness, purity in heart, and peacemaking are virtues which mark the godly as blessed." --- Jimmy Tuten
 - 2. The world will scoff at these things. But remember, the world will never have this blessedness, or happiness that can only come from God.
 - 3. "Up to this point in our discussion we have seen stress on man's need and his consciousness of that need. Now Jesus lays stress on the disposition that comes out of that fulfilled need." --- Jimmy Tuten

I. The sign of God's Character in us --- Mercifulness

- A. What is mercy? **(Mt 5:7)**
 - 1. Merciful is from Gr. "*eleemon, eleos*," meaning "mercy, pity, especially on account of misery" (Berry). "...good will towards the miserable and afflicted, joined with a desire to relieve them" (Thayer).
 - a. Mercy denotes **both** an attitude and an action.
 - b. It is not enough just to feel for another. **(Jas 2:15-18)**
 - 2. Consider some Bible examples of mercy.
 - a. The Good Samaritan showed mercy. **(Lk 10:30-37)**
 - b. The publican wanted mercy. **(Lk 18:13)**
 - c. The ten lepers received mercy from Jesus. **(Lk 17:13)**
- B. Mercy works with other fruits of the Spirit.
 - 1. **Mercy and love:** "Love has man as its object because of humanity, whatever the state. Mercy is extended specifically because suffering and affliction. Love is toward mankind per se, where mercy is toward men because of imperfections, with a desire to bring relief." --- Jimmy Tuten
 - 2. **Mercy and grace:** "The noun "*eleos*" and its derivatives always deal with what we see of pain, misery, and distress, the results of sin; and "*charis*," 'grace,' always deals with the sin and guilt itself. The one extends relief, the other pardon ... With God *charis* (grace) is always first and *eleos* (mercy) second." - R.C.H. Lenski
 - 3. How do you view the weaknesses of others?
 - a. Brethren may say: "I do not have to like you," "I have no patience for him," or "He is being stubborn." Often this is a sure sign of having no mercy.

- b. Mercy will go a long way in keeping the tongue from falsely attacking brethren! **(Mt 12:7)**
- c. Even the world talks about mercy. What they have does not come from God!

"Mercy is a quality not wholly unknown even in a world of basically self-seeking men. But it is a selective, capricious mercy that does not move from principle and is not a settled disposition of the heart and character. The same man who is capable of occasional compassion still finds the sorrows of others too burdensome and revenge too sweet."

- Paul Earnhart

- d. God pleads with us to have mercy. **(Col 3:12; Hos 6:6, 12:6)**

II. The Christian's unwavering focus -- those who are pure in heart. (Mt 5:8)

- A. The word "Pure" is from the Greek word *katharos*, used twenty-eight times in the New Testament. It is translated by such terms as "pure," "clean" and "clear."
 - 1. "Blessed are those whose motives are absolutely unmixed, whose minds are utterly sincere, who are completely and totally single-minded." - J.B. Phillips
 - 2. We must have a single focus in this life. When we have this everything will come from pure motives! **(Mt 6:22-24; 2 Cor 11:2)**
- B. The fruits of an impure heart.
 - 1. You will depend upon your own guile and "wisdom" rather than trust God. **(2 Cor 4:2)**
 - 2. You will lack the resolve and courage that comes by faith. **(Jas 1:7-8, 4:8)**
 - 3. "The true vision of God will not be granted to the shrewd and calculating who play dishonest games; or to the doubleminded who can never quite put both feet in the kingdom **(James 1:7-8)**, but to those who are absolutely honest and single of heart toward God." - Paul Earnhart

III. The blessings of these beatitudes

- A. "Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy." **(Mt 5:7)**
 - 1. What does God's mercy mean to you? **(2 Cor 1:3; Eph 2:4; Jas 5:11)**
 - 2. Paul's life was transformed by God's mercy. Can you join him in this view? **(1 Tim 1:13-16)**
 - 3. You can throw away God's mercy! Are you listening? **(Jas 2:13)**
 - a. "Mercy means refraining from cruelty. We will watch our words. We will refrain from a revengeful spirit, harsh judgements, slander, gossip, and backbiting." - Joe Corley
 - b. Please look at your heart carefully! The unmerciful will be lost.
 - 4. Remember Jesus warning to the Pharisees. **(Mt 9:13; 23:23)**
- B. "Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God." **(Mt 5:8)**
 - 1. We will see the character of God and have Him dwell within us. **(2 Pt 1:3-4)**
 - 2. On the other hand the impure will dwell upon the evil and in that condition never see or know our God. **(Tit 1:15; Mt 6:22-23)**

Conclusion: What is our attitude towards what God has done for us?

- A. True happiness comes when we are crucified and Christ is exalted. **(Gal 2:20)**
- B. What will judgment day be like for you?