

Sermon on the Mount #7
Blessed are the Merciful!

Matthew 5:3-12

I. Sermon on the Mount: Brief Refresher (Mt.5:48)

A. Jesus' called us to pursue a lifestyle of obedience that seeks to be perfected (mature in our obedience). Walking mature in our obedience is relative in this age and absolute in the age-to-come. In this age, we never attain to perfection in the absolute sense. We are to walk in the fullness of the light that we receive from the Spirit. This includes declaring war on all our lust that the Spirit reveals.

Mt. 5:48 You shall be perfect (walk in all the light you receive) as your Father...is perfect.

B. The pursuit of 100-fold obedience includes making a covenant with our eyes (Ps. 101:3; Job 31:1), bridling our speech (Jas 3:2; Eph. 4:29-5:4), managing our time (for service and prayer with the Word, (Eph. 5:15-16) and money to increase the Kingdom beyond our personal comfort and honor (Mt. 6:19-21) as we engage in communing prayer with the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14).

C. In the sermon on the mount Jesus gave six practical areas in which we must wage war against lust (1 Pet. 2:11): anger (spirit of murder, Mt. 5:21-26), adultery (spirit of immorality, Mt. 5:27-30), disregarding the sanctity of marriage (spirit of treachery, Mal. 2:13-17 or disloyalty that disregards the sanctity of marriage, Mt. 5:31-32), false commitments (spirit of manipulation that seeks to promote ourselves, Mt. 5:33-37). To use "spin" to present ourselves in a false way about our commitments in the past and the present (by lack of follow through), demanding personal justice (spirit of pride or bitterness that insists on our personal rights, Mt. 5:38-41) and refusing to retaliate (spirit of revenge or animosity in relationships, Mt. 5:42-47).

D. Jesus also describes five "grace-releasing activities" in our secret life that position our heart to receive more strength in the grace of God. Our heart receives more grace as we consistently and secretly serve and give (charitable deeds: giving service and/or money (6:1-4, 19-21), pray (6:5-13), bless adversaries (forgiving, 6:14-15; 5:44) and fast (6:16-18). The progressive working out of this lifestyle within the context of our devotional life as the Holy Spirit disciplines us into someone that resembles Jesus and brings glory to God is what happens when these methods are embraced and pursued.

II. The Eight Beatitudes: Brief Definitions (Mt. 5:3-12)

Introduction: True spiritual reality is defined by the 8 beatitudes. This is the character of Jesus, true christlikeness! These describe what pleases God and what Jesus has in mind for creation and will duplicate in the nations through His ministry as King. Implied in all of God's commands is the promise of the enabling grace to walk out the command. Thus, all eight beatitudes are a part of our inheritance and are doable by the grace of God active in us. God will bless the pursuit and progressive attainment of these 8 expressions of grace in the heart.

A. Being poor in spirit (theirs is the kingdom of heaven, Mt. 5:3) – to acknowledge that we are in great need of help to sustain wholeheartedness. This is to understand, that we are in a serious dilemma in needing a breakthrough (insight/power) in our heart for godliness.

B. Mourning for breakthrough (for they shall be comforted, Mt. 5:4) – to be convinced (grieved) at the human condition and our personal inability to live the Christ life, and to be desperate enough to be "extreme" in our pursuit of a progressive breakthrough of insight (revelation) and power (divine enablement) in our heart and ministry.

C. Walking in meekness (shall inherit the earth, Mt. 5:5) – to walk in the fasted lifestyle (voluntary weakness) or to have a servant spirit in the use of our natural strengths (time, money, energy, reputation, authority, etc.). Humility or meekness speaks of using our resources with a servant spirit, as we lay down personal rights in serving without regard for receiving the reward (honor, money) from people.

D. Hungering for righteousness (for they shall be filled, Mt. 5:6) – sustained faithfulness in seeking God with wholeheartedness through changing circumstances and seasons of our life.

E. Relating to others with mercy (for they shall obtain mercy, Mt. 5:7) – having a tender spirit in how we treat others in light of receiving God's mercy in our many failures (Ps. 18:35; 130:3-4).

F. Being pure in heart (they shall see God, Mt. 5:8) – breakthrough of purity in our thoughts (bitterness, immorality) and motives (helping people for their benefit without any personal gain).

G. Becoming an anointed peacemaker (called sons of God, Mt. 5:9) – anointing to bring peace (reconciliation) to that which is out of God's will (restoring relationships, bodies, legislation).

H. Enduring persecution (theirs is the kingdom, Mt. 5:10-12) – bearing the counterattack for plundering Satan's Kingdom because we operate in the power of grace and stand for righteousness.

III. Blessed are the Merciful! (they shall obtain mercy)

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

A. Our anchor is our confession that “The Lord is good, His mercy endures forever”. The good leadership of Jesus speaks of His perfect love and infallible wisdom. His mercy enduring says that no one is disqualified from the benefits of His leadership if they come to Him.

B. This song was sung at strategic times in redemptive history. For example, it was sung at the dedication of the Tabernacle of David (1 Chr. 16:34, 41); Temple of Solomon (2 Chr. 5:13; 7:3, 6) and in the war led by Jehoshaphat that prophetically foreshadows the Armageddon Campaign (2 Chr. 20:21). The End-Time battle comes to a head at the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:2, 12) or the Valley of Berachah (2 Chr. 20:26, 16) also called the Valley of Decision (Joel 3:14).

C. Jesus went around doing good and healing all manner of “dis-ease” among the people! He truly is our supreme example of mercy! How mercifully kind is our Lord as we watch Him with spiritual eyes through all the pages of scripture!

Acts 10:38 *...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

1. See Him with the Woman Taken in Adultery.

John 8:10-11 *When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." and Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*

2. See Him with Judas who was to betray Him.

John 13:2-4 *And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, ... Jesus, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.*

D. There are spiritual laws that govern all of creation! To know these and to live in harmony (agreement) with them is life and peace. To not know them, or to know them and not do them, is to live in conflict and pain. This is contradictory to The Father’s purpose for us in creation.

E. One of the most important of these laws within creation is the law of reciprocity. Simply stated this law means that whatever you throw out there, that same thing is going to come back at you, often with a fury. This is the law of the boomerang.

Galatians 6:7-10 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

F. There are both positive and negative applications of this law of reciprocity (reaping and sowing) with widespread ramifications and numerous applications within our daily life! Reciprocity affects virtually all areas of our existence.

1. Direct Positive & Negative Applications of this Spiritual Law within the Sermon on the Mount:

-Mercy - Matthew 5:7 *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*

-Forgiveness – Matthew 6:12 *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Matthew 6:14-15* *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

-Giving – Luke 6:38 *Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*

-Judging Others – Matthew 7:1-2 *"Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.*

-Condemning Others - Luke 6:37 *"Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.*

2. Indirect Positive & Negative Applications of this Spiritual Law within the Sermon on the Mount:

-Angry Root Judgment in Relationships – Matt 5:21-26 – Be a hater, you will be held by spiritual forces

-Treachery in the Marriage Relationship – Matt 5:31-32 – Be a covenant-breaker, you will be cheated on

-Retaliation in Relationships a Trap – Matt 5:38-48 – Break the cycle of retaliation at all costs

-Fault Finding as Self Justification – Matt 7:1-5 – You will be blinded to your own need and a hypocrite

G. Remember, Satan is the consummate lawyer and is pressing every minute legal loophole at his disposal against us in order to fulfill his mission as accuser of the brethren. He uses our words, attitudes and actions against us if we do not become wise unto salvation. Let us not be ignorant of his devices!

2 Corinthians 2:11 *...lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*