

A DIFFERENT KIND OF LIFE

Who is Full of Mercy?

TEXT: Mt. 5:7

INTRODUCTION: Last week we read **Mt. 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.**

We examined both the meaning and the promise of these words of our Lord morning and evening last week. We are far from exhausting its meaning, and **tonight** I want us to go back to it one more time as we ask the question **“How Can I Build My Spiritual Appetite?”**

This morning, however, I want us to move forward to the next declaration of the Lord Jesus concerning how to have abiding joy in our lives.

Mt. 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

What does this mean, “Blessed are the merciful?”

I. WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN

A. Blessed is the fellow who treats people nice because they will treat him nice.

1. Blatantly not true. “Do it to others before they do it to you.” The reason I tell you this is because if you think this is what Jesus meant, then when you discover it doesn’t work, you give up.
2. Example – Jesus – no one was ever more merciful than Jesus.
 - a. Blind
 - b. Lame
 - c. Dead
 - d. Children
 - e. Woman in adultery

What did they give Him?

- a. Rejection
- b. Ridicule
- c. Flogging
- d. Cross

B. Blessed is the person who does good works because he will be saved.

When sharing the gospel, I often ask two questions:

1. If you died today, do you know for sure you would go to heaven?

If they tell me they are certain they would go to heaven, I ask the second question:

2. If you died today and stood before God, and He were to ask you, "Why should I let you into My heaven," what would you say?

To which I often get the answers

- I practice the "Golden Rule,"
- I try to be "Good to others,"

But my friend, being good to others won't get you to heaven.

Rom. 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom. 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

II. WHAT IT DOES MEAN

A. Blessed are those who are filled with God's mercy because they have received it.

Mercy is a part of an important family

1. Mercy is the daughter of Love which comes from God.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Love is first. Mercy comes from love, but love produces other offspring as well, such as kindness, gentleness, and patience.

2. Mercy is the mother of Forgiveness.
Forgiveness is an act of mercy, but there are other mercies.
3. Grace is the fraternal twin sister of Mercy. They are almost identical but not quite.
Mercy withholds the bad we deserve.

Grace gives the good we do not deserve.

I share this with you that you may understand that mercy does not come alone. The only way for a person to be truly filled with mercy is for him or her to be filled with the love that comes from God.

To be full of mercy so that you may show mercy, you must have received mercy. Mercy is given out at the cross.

So, the beginning place of blessed are the merciful is to be the recipient of mercy through faith in the Lord Jesus, but this is not the end.

B. Blessed are those who have a character of mercy as a result of that filling.

Mercy is compassion that results in action.

COMPASSION —————> **ACTION**

Not sentimentality, not stroking one's conscience, not silent passive pity
Genuine compassion that helps – Good Samaritan

Blessed are the merciful.

**Blessed are those who have received the mercy of God in Christ,
who then allow the love of God to flow forth in acts of mercy to others in
need.**

Today, we remember how we received mercy when we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Having received mercy, we need to show mercy.

III. HOW CAN WE SHOW MERCY?

A. By Meeting Physical Needs

Food for hungry
Clothes for cold
Medical care for the sick
Shelter for homeless
Money for poor
Care of disadvantaged and the hurting

Thinking of the Good Samaritan, how many of us often cross to the other side?

B. By Meeting The Needs Of The Soul – Emotional Needs.

Shut-in
Widow, Widower

C. By Meeting Spiritual Needs

There is no need greater than the need for Jesus. When we truly show mercy, we will be careful to take the opportunity to introduce them to the source of mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today we are going to begin the practice that immediately after remembering how we have received mercy we are going to have the opportunity to be merciful.

We are going to take an offering to help the hurting of our church and our community with needs beyond what we can do through giving food, clothing, and medical care at our Center of Hope. Sometimes a family needs help with rent. Sometimes a single mom needs gas to get to work. Sometimes a child needs some items for school.