

The Beatitudes

The Fifth Beatitude

Int.

1. Aim: To explain the beatitude about "mercy".
2. Mt. 5:1-2 There are eight Beatitudes
 - a. The first four discuss our relation to God -- Man to God
 - b. The last four discuss our relation to Man -- Man to Man
3. There are over six billion people on this earth. If you ask them: "What would make you happy?", the majority would answer by referring to some physical thing or condition.
 - a. Most believe that if they have cars, houses, clothes, food, electronic gadgets and money they would be happy.
 - b. Others would say that if they did not have sickness or heartaches of any kind they would be happy.
 - c. But the Bible teaches that real happiness comes when we submit to the will of God.
 - d. "He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he." Prov. 16:20 NKJV
4. When we are in a right relation with God and live in a peaceful way with our fellow man then we can be happy, or as the beatitudes say, Blessed.
5. The Fifth Beatitude ... "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Mt.5:7
6. We will discuss: The Merciful -- the reward

Discussion

I. THE MERCIFUL

A. What does it mean to be merciful?

1. The word means to be Compassionate.
2. The Merciful are those people who are touched and pained at the misery and misfortune of others. It is compassion on the unfortunate. Also involved in the word is the idea of sparing punishment for those who justly deserve it.
3. Mercy is a heart quality.
4. To the Jews mercy signified two things:
 - a. Pardon of injuries
 - b. Giving of Alms
5. In Latin the word mercy is composed of two words -- MISERY and HEART -- meaning a heart touched by the misery of another.
6. Many times in both the OT and the NT the word mercy is translated with the word "kindness" or "loving-kindness"
7. Merciful means that we are touched or pained at the misery and misfortune of others and that we have a disposition to help relieve that misery.
8. Mercy is more than feeling -- it is also action! Without action it is just Pity!!!

B. Grace and mercy

1. Mercy and Grace are associated with God's love
 - a. 2 Cor. 1:3 "the Father of mercies"
 - b. 1 Tim. 1:2 "...grace, mercy and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord."

2. Grace is extended to man by God because man is guilty
3. Mercy is extended to man by God because man is miserable.
4. According to strict justice no human being could go to heaven
 - a. Rm. 3:23 "all have sinned"
 - b. But on the cross of Christ --- "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed [touched] each other." Ps. 85:10
 - (1) Truth says = man has sinned and this blocks him from entering heaven
 - (2) Mercy says = Let Christ's blood cover man's sins
 - (3) Righteousness says = it is not right for a sinner to come into heaven
 - (4) Peace says = Let Christ be the mediator that there may be reconciliation between man and his Maker.
 - c. Therefore we receive the mercy and grace of God through the blood of Jesus Christ -- having our sins forgiven
5. God is merciful to us and we must be merciful to each other.
6. Lk. 6:36 "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."
7. We do not need to be merciful to God because God has not offended or hurt us so as to need our mercy.
8. But mercy is badly needed among all people and especially among brethren.
9. Mt. 9:13 and 12:7 Jesus exhorts us to find out what Hosea meant in Hos. 6:6 when he said "I desired mercy" -- in other words ...

C. How do we show mercy to our fellow man?

1. Deeds of Helpfulness

- a. Luke 10 -- Samaritan bound up the wounds of the unfortunate man -- "he that shewed mercy on him." v. 37
- b. Jas. 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."
- c. Gal. 2:10 "Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do."
- d. Gal. 6:10 "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."
- e. Christians should be the most compassionate people on the face of the earth - 1 Jn. 3:17 "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"
- f. Excuse -- too busy, Jesus was busier than any of us, but He had time to show mercy and compassion to his fellow man.

2. In Kindliness of judgement

- a. A merciful man is slow to condemn and draw unfavorable conclusions
- b. He is eager to believe the best, not the worst, about people -- 1 Cor. 13:7 ...believeth all things.

3. In Forgiveness

- a. A man who has mercy in his heart holds no malice
- b. He can bless those who persecute him
- c. He is kind, tender-hearted, forgiving even as God also in Christ forgave him
- d. Eph. 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
- e. Mt. 18:23-35 Parable of unmerciful servant
 - (1) He owed a large debt -- asked his master for forgiveness and it was given -- his lord had mercy (compassion) on him and forgave all his debt
 - (2) Same man had a fellow man who owed him a small debt - but he refused to show mercy and would not forgive the man but had him cast into prison
 - (3) V. 32-35
 - (4) This illustrated the relationship between God and man and between man and man
 - (5) God has forgiven us a large debt, our sins, which we could not pay. He has shown mercy to us.
 - (6) Therefore we must be willing to forgive our fellow man the small debt, sins or trespasses against us, owed to us. We must show mercy by forgiveness of our fellowman
- f. Joseph showed mercy to his brothers
 - (1) Gen. 50:15-21
 - (2) V. 21 "...he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them." Mercy - compassion in action.

- g. Col. 3:13 "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."
- h. Lk. 23:34 "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."
- (1) Jesus Forgave them on a human level for their offenses to him - he forgave personally
 - (2) He did not remit their sins by this statement -- for in Acts 2 Peter preached to them and told them what to do to be saved from their sins
- i. Acts 7:60 "...Lord, lay not this sin to their charge"
- (1) Stephen forgave them for what they were doing to him
 - (2) He forgave them and prayed to God for them
 - (3) Saul later obeyed the Gospel - he was not saved by the prayer of Stephen - but Stephen was correct in showing a merciful attitude toward them
- j. A merciful spirit is willing and anxious to forgive, not to get revenge for wrongdoing!!!

II. THE REWARD

- A. "They shall obtain mercy"
1. This is the reward for the merciful -- being merciful brings its own reward
 2. They have sowed mercy and they reap mercy.
 3. "Mercy blesses him that gives and him that takes" -- Shakespeare
 4. What we receive in life depends largely on what we give.
 5. Pro. 11:17 "The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh."

B. Rewarded in Three ways

1. Inward Benefit

- a. "The merciful man doeth good to his own soul..." Pr.11:17a
- b. There is a personal satisfaction in the exercise of pity and benevolence
- c. ".he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he." Pro.14:21b

2. Fellow man gives mercy

- a. Our fellowmen treat us pretty much as we treat them
 - (1) Severity begets severity - Mt. 18:31 "So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done."
 - (2) Kindness begets kindness
 - (3) Mercy receives mercy
- b. Those who judge in mercy shall be judged in mercy
- c. Those who help their fellowman in times of need shall be rewarded with compassion and help in their times of need
- d. Those who are known to be forgiving are more freely forgiven.
- e. Those who are merciful frequently receive mercy from their fellow man but always from God.

3. God Gives mercy

- a. Before God will show mercy to us we must prove that we have a state of heart which makes it safe for God to extend mercy to us.
 - b. We will receive mercy from God if we have extended it to our fellowman - He who shows mercy to men, God will show mercy to him: but to him who shows no mercy to man, God will show no mercy.
 - c. As long as mercy flows from our lives, infinite mercy will flow into our lives.
 - d. The measure we mete to others shall be measured unto us
- C. Jude 21 "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

CONCLUSION

1. Summary of the Fifth Beatitude

a. Specific

- (1) This is directed toward man - not God
- (2) Touched at the misery or misfortune of others and having a disposition to help relieve that hurt

b. Results

- (1) They shall obtain mercy
- (2) We reap what we sow - this is the reward for being merciful

c. Principle

- (1) Mercy
- (2) Compassion is badly needed today

d. Application

(1) Forgiveness to those who offend

(2) Col. 3:13 "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

(3) The best way for us to show mercy to one another is to forgive one another.

2. If the merciful obtain mercy, then the unmerciful do not obtain mercy.

a. Prov. 21:13 "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard."

b. Jas. 2:13 "For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment."

3. When that quality of mercy is embedded in our heart, we are like God.

4. As we show mercy our opportunities will grow, our appreciation for each other will grow and God will be glorified.

5. We Imitate God when we show mercy and loving kindness to others.

6. A person who is merciful is kind to his fellowman, doing to others as they wish others to do to them.

7. The merciful person will be happy.

8. "Blessed [are] the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." - Mt.5:7