## The Sermon on the Mount – The Beatitudes – Part 2 | 11/6/16

- Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. | Matthew 5:7
  - o We are to be merciful because Christ showed us mercy.
    - Ephesians 2:4-7
    - Being made in the image of God and having His Spirit living within us, we will desire to extend the same mercy that He has shown us to others.
    - To show the world this same mercy as Christ showed us is truly let others see Christ within us.
    - When we reflect His character into the world it will take notice.
  - o If we show mercy, then God will show us mercy.
    - Scripture tells us to treat others as we would like to be treated.
      - Luke 6:31
        - o "and as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them."
    - We know that we at times make mistakes and we fail. In those times, we desire mercy from others and from God.
    - All too often we want to receive this mercy but we do not give it to others, but God says that those who show mercy will receive it.
    - If we will show mercy to those that have wronged us, God will also show us the same mercy when we sin against Him.
  - We are blessed when we show mercy to others.
    - Not only does the one we show mercy receive a blessing, so do we.
    - The blessed that means divine joy is given to those who show Christ like mercy.
    - God will show us mercy for our wrongs and for the things we have done when we do it to others.
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. | Matthew 5:8
  - To see God is certainly something we all desire and look forward to. However how is it that we will see Him?
    - Scripture tells us that God is invisible and that He cannot be seen.
      - 1 Timothy 6:15b-16a
        - "...he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see..."
    - If God is invisible, then how is it that by having a pure heart that we can see God?
  - The children of God will see Him in heaven.
    - The Christian will see God in His glorified state when we are in heaven.
      - 1 John 3:2
        - "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."
      - Revelations 22:3-4
        - "No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads."
  - We see God, not in His actual form, but through the lens of our heart.
    - While we will not see God in His true form this side of heaven, we will see Him through the lens of our heart.
      - Jeremiah 29:13
        - o "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart"

- There is where we find God, he is in our hearts.
- A pure heart is the result of salvation through faith and God's grace.
- A pure heart
  - A pure heart is the foundation of being a Christian.
    - The heart is the real you, regardless of what you portray to the world.
  - Our hearts without Christ, are evil and full of sin.
    - Ecclesiastes 9:3
      - "this is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead."
  - But through faith and God's grace He has cleansed our hearts and made them pure.
    - Hebrews 10:22
      - "let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water"
    - o Acts 15:9
      - "and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith."
    - o Psalms 51:7
      - "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."
  - It is with this pure heart that we are now able to clearly see God.
    - God purged out our blemishes, gave us a new heart and His Holy Spirit.
      - Ezekiel 36:26
        - "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."
    - We can clearly see Him with our hearts even though He is not physically visible.
      - This is where faith gives us a form of vision and clarity that is not something we get with our normal senses.
      - One who has God's Spirit living within them cannot deny that He is there. No one can tell you that He is not real because you clearly see Him in your heart.
      - It is with this lens that we clearly see God working in the world.
  - The pure heart that allows us to "see God" signifies what being "blessed" feels like.
    - To be blessed is a joy that surpasses all human reasoning and understanding. It goes beyond anything we could ever experience or receive from the world.
    - To be able to see God in our hearts is truly to be blessed. It is to have a
      joy that cannot be explained or fully understood with human reasoning
      and understanding.
    - It is a joy that surpasses all other fleeting joys that we find in the world.
- How would you describe being able to "see" God through the lens of your heart? How has that affected you?

- Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God. | Matthew 5:9
  - Jesus Christ came as the prince of peace.
    - Isaiah 9:6
      - "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**."
  - He did not come to condemn the world but to save it.
    - John 3:17
      - "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."
  - Jesus made peace with the sinners through the blood of the cross.
    - Everyone is a sinner and is in a sense in conflict with God in our state of unrighteousness.
    - We have sinned against God and deserve the punishment that is due.
    - However, Jesus made peace with the sinners through the blood of the cross.
      - Colossians 1:20
        - "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross."
    - Now because of the cross we have ourselves a peace with God.
      - Romans 5:1
        - "Therefore, since we have bene justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
  - This is the nature of the peace that God desires for the Christian to have with others.
    - The wisdom that God gives us through the Spirit and Scriptures teaches us to be peacemakers, to be gentle and show God's grace and love to others.
      - James 3:17
        - "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."
    - It is then our responsibility as Christians to portray this unto the world, even though it goes against worldly reasoning and wisdom.
      - Matthew 5:43-45
        - "You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."
      - While the world may hold and breed evil of all sorts, God has called us to be lights in the darkness and not to be at war.
        - There is a battle against sin and darkness for sure, but not with those who were also made in the image of God.
        - Just as God provides mercy and grace through the sun and rain to the sinners, so should we.
  - How hard is it to be a peacemaker in practice? Can you do it on your own, or does it require the Spirit?
- Blessed are those who are persecuted | Matthew 5:10-12
  - This is another teaching of Jesus that is counter to the world.
    - How is it that those who are persecuted are blessed?

- No one desires to be persecuted, it isn't something that we strive for.
- How is it that when a Christian suffers for following Christ, experience this divine joy?
- o To take a stand for Christ while being persecuted, shows our steadfast commitment.
  - In life people voice their support behind beliefs or people for various reasons.
    - It may be to put your support or voice behind a political candidate or perhaps a world view.
  - However, one's true intentions and feelings, are not likely to be made known unless they are required to take a difficult path in showing their support.
    - For example, it is easy to always put your support behind the popular issues. If you are always for what the majority is for then you can generally assume that to be an easier path.
      - If you always choose the path and road that everyone else is going, then
        it is easy to just go with the flow and "fit in".
      - o Like following the herd or a busy flow of traffic.
    - But if what you believe in or support is on the narrow road, then it will be more difficult to follow. You must go against the flow to get to your destination.
      - If someone is just simply following the herd, the moment it becomes difficult they will not hesitate to jump ship.
  - It is in these circumstances and trials that Christians will go through, that show what they believe and how committed to Christ they truly are.
    - It shows that we are unashamed of Him and glad to be called a Christian.
      - o 1 Peter 4:16
        - "Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name."
      - o Romans 1:16a
        - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."
      - o If we can truly stand up to the world amidst all kinds of persecution this shows that we are not ashamed of Him or His Gospel.
      - That we firmly believe in its truth, that it is the power of salvation to all who believe.
      - This means that it is more important than all else.
    - Therefore, they are blessed because Jesus is fully aware of the sacrifice that must be made.
      - o 1 Peter 4:14
        - "If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.
      - It is all but certain that to live in our society today and be publically committed to Christ, that you will be insulted at some point.
        - It could be a comment on social media or a co-worker who has vastly different views about God.
      - There is great joy bestowed upon those who persevere because they are being obedient and this shows Christ that they see Him as being more important.
        - Matthew 10:28

- "and do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."
- He knows that those who truly love Him are unashamed to be called a Christian and He will bless them.
- How important is it for Christians to persevere when we encounter persecution because of our belief in Jesus Christ?