

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

- Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. | Matthew 5:7
  - 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.
  - 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
        - “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
          - “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”
    - Acts 15:9
      - “and he made no distinction between us and them, **having cleansed their hearts by faith.**”
    - 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 been 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?



- “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?**