

Matthew (Sermon on the Mount)

April 30, 2023

Pastor Jarrod Adkins

The Sermon on the Mount was Jesus' first public teaching exposition. Jesus is setting the stage for the rest of His earthly and eternal ministry. He lays out the foundational truths of His Kingdom. He is defining His personal character to be followed.

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

Redefining “Blessed”

- **Blessed** – (Greek; *makrios*) This word is often translated to “happy.” It could even be translated as a holy congratulations.
We mostly only understand it through the lens of Western values but remember Isaiah 55:8-9. Jesus’ thoughts and ways are better and so we need to redefine the word “blessed” through the lens of Scripture.
Other Scriptures that challenge our view of being blessed: Psalm 41:1; 94:12; 112:1; James 1:12; Matthew 11:6

- **The merciful** – (Greek, *eleēmōn*) Compassion towards those who deserve judgment. Mercy can only be granted to one who has done something to merit judgment.

Matthew 23:23

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

There is a spiritual gift of mercy. Cf. **Romans 12:6-8**

- **Standard for Mercy**

Mercy is a divine attribute of God.

He is slow to anger and steadfast in love. Cf. Numbers 14:18; Psalm 86:5, 15
2 Corinthians 1:3 He is described as the “Father of Mercies.”

He is great in compassion and rich in mercy toward us all. Cf. Psalm 145:8;
Ephesians 2:4

Under the New Covenant, mercy is personified, as God becomes a Man—Jesus Christ. Cf. Hebrews 2:17

- **Receive and Give Merciful**

We are not merciful by nature.

Mercy is imparted to us by the Holy Spirit through the revelation of the cross of Christ and the love of our Father in heaven.

Luke 6:36 *Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.* Cf. Matthew 18:33

Jesus later reiterates this beatitude in **Matthew 6:15** by stating, “*If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*” Also in

Matthew 7:1-5, 1 *“Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*

The beatitudes are what Jesus is like and what He likes.

Discipleship Homework:

The Beatitudes are filled with so much counter-cultural truth that it each one could be its own mini-teaching series. Don't rush through each value of the Kingdom of God but meditate and wrestle with the culture Jesus is inviting us in to.

- Is our definition of blessedness similar with Jesus'?
- Consider each of the values taught on Sunday: poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, and hunger and thirst for righteousness. Does our value system align with Jesus'? If not, continuing prayers of repentance. Ask Jesus to change your thoughts with His truth and for the Holy Spirit to lead you in His ways.