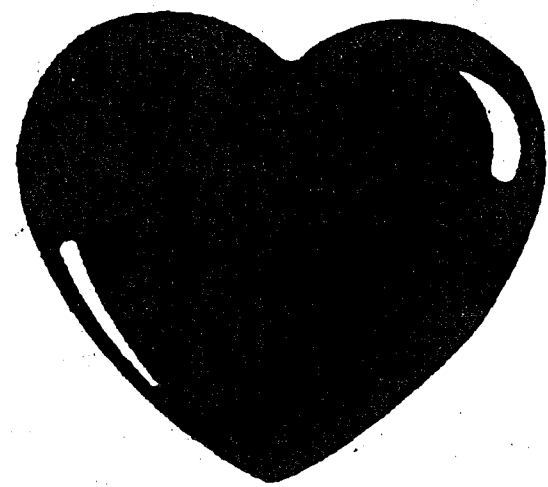


THE MERCIFUL

(How Receiving Mercy Mandates That We Extend Mercy)
Matthew 5:7



THE MERCIFUL BELIEVER...

- ◆ ...Is Free From Condemnation Over Their Own Trespasses
- ◆ ...Is Free From Concentration Upon Others Trespasses

“Blessed Are The Merciful, For They Shall Obtain Mercy” (Matthew 5:7)

Bill Kirk

“MATTERS OF THE HEART”

Message #5

Text: Matthew 5:1-12

Subject: (Verse 7) “Blessed Are The Merciful, For They Shall Obtain Mercy”

Introduction

- ◆ In Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus makes us an offer that is hard to refuse.
- ◆ 8 (cause and effect) choices that determine the quality of your spiritual life.
- ◆ 8 opportunities to cooperate with God.
- ◆ 8 decisions that enable us to be healthy, wholesome, and happy people.

Question: What are the choices?

- #1. “Blessed are the poor in spirit”
- #2. “Blessed are they that mourn”
- #3. “Blessed are the meek”
- #4. “Blessed are the hungry and thirsty”
- #5. “Blessed are the merciful”
- #6. “Blessed are the pure in heart”
- #7. “Blessed are the peacemakers”
- #8. “Blessed are the persecuted”

Question: What does it mean to be “Blessed”?

Answer: The Greek word for “Blessed” is (MAKARIOS) which means:

- #1. “To possess a spiritual joy that exists regardless of conditions around you”.
- #2. “To live with an inward contentment that enables you to bear up under pain, sorrow, grief or loss”.
- #3. “To have substance from God that is inward and abiding”.

Question: How many of you want to be inwardly joyful, contented and healthy in a spiritually sick world?

Thus Far:

- ◆ **In Week #1:** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, (why?) for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

(Which Means:)

1. To be consciously aware of our spiritual poverty.
2. To admit our own spiritual deficiencies.
3. To see our need of the grace of God.

Question: Why are the “Poor in spirit” blessed?

Answer: Because the “Poor in spirit” will inherit God’s grace allowing them to live:

- ◆ With **Humility** (which protects us from self-destruction and self-pre-occupation).
- ◆ With **Submission** (which saves us from destructive anger when unfulfilled expectations come our way).
- ◆ With **Contentment** (which spares us from envy and jealousy allowing us to enjoy what we have).
- ◆ With **Gratitude** (which keeps us from a murmuring and complaining spirit). (Pg. 1 of 7)

Fact: To the degree my heart is emptied of self (poor in spirit) to that degree Jesus will reign, and to that degree of His Lordship will be my happiness and joy.

◆ **In Week #2:** “Blessed are they that mourn (why?) for they shall be comforted”.

(To “Spiritually Mourn” Means:)

- #1. To be broken hearted over personal sin.
- #2. To respond to God with Godly sorrow after seeing that I am “Poor in spirit”.

Question: Why should we mourn over personal sin?

Answer: Because to the degree that we mourn, to that same degree we shall be comforted (or be forgiven and delivered from the sin).

◆ **In Week #3:** “Blessed are the meek (why?) for they shall inherit the earth”. (Which Means:)

- ◆ The degree of my humility will be the degree of my ability to inherit the earth (or enjoy a healthy Christian life and spirit while here on earth).
- ◆ Meekness will allow me to bear injury, to forgive injury, and to overcome injury.
- ◆ And this allows me to inherit the earth with an undamaged spirit and attitude (that is free from poison).

◆ **In Week #4:** “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled” (Which Means:)

- #1. To crave after righteousness in your spiritual appetite (and)
- #2. To seek to be righteous before God...
 - ◆ ...in your position (which is justification) and
 - ◆ ...in your practice (which is sanctification)

Question: What is the reward of those who hunger and thirst to be saved and be free from every sinful habit?

Answer: “They shall be filled” (Which Means:)

- ◆ The degree of my joy in life will be equal to my desire to be right with God, free from sin and surrendered to the will of God in my life.

(Today: Message #5)

“Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy”

- #1. What does it mean to be merciful?
- #2. Why is it necessary to be merciful?
- #3. How does exercising mercy make it possible for God to dispense mercy to us?

I. **Is Mercy That Important To God?**

- ◆ **Genesis 19:19:** “Thou hast magnified thy **mercy** in saving my life.”
- ◆ **Exodus 25:22:** “I will commune with thee above the **mercy seat**”.
- ◆ **Ezra 3:11:** “They sang and gave thanks to God saying, the Lord is good, for His **mercy** endures forever”.
- ◆ **Psalms 25:10:** “All the paths of the Lord are **mercy** and truth”.
- ◆ **Psalms 86:5:** “For thou Lord art good, ready to forgive, and plenteous in **mercy** unto all them that call upon thee”.
- ◆ **Proverbs 20:28:** “**Mercy** and truth preserve the king, and his throne is upheld by mercy”.
- ◆ **Isaiah 54:10** “My peace shall not be removed because of My **Mercy** upon him”.

- ◆ Jeremiah 31:20: "I still remember Ephraim my son, I will surely have **mercy** upon him".
- ◆ Romans 15:9: "That the Gentiles might glorify God for His **mercy**".
- ◆ Ephesians 2:4: "But God, who is rich in **mercy** for His great love wherewith He loved us".
- ◆ Titus 3:5: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His **mercy** he saved us".
- ◆ I Peter 2:9-10: "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people...which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God; which had not obtained **mercy**, but now have obtained **mercy**".
- ◆ Proverbs 3:3: "Let not **mercy** forsake you...write it upon the table of your heart".
- ◆ Proverbs 11:17: "The **merciful** man does good to his own soul".
- ◆ Micah 6:8: "He hath showed thee O man, what is good, and what does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love **mercy**, and to walk humbly with thy God".
- ◆ Psalms 103:17: "But the **mercy** of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting".
- ◆ Lamentations 3:22: "It is of the Lord's **mercies** that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not".
- ◆ Joel 2:13: "Turn to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and **merciful**".
- ◆ Micah 7:18: "The Lord retaineth not His anger forever, because He delights in **mercy**".
- ◆ Psalms 103:8: "The Lord is **merciful** and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in **mercy**".
- ◆ Isaiah 55:7: "Let the unrighteous return unto the Lord and He will have **mercy** upon them and abundantly pardon".
- ◆ Jeremiah 3:12: "Return O backsliding Israel, for I will be **merciful** towards you".
- ◆ Luke 18:13: "God, be **merciful** to me a sinner".

II. What Is "Mercy"?

"Blessed are the merciful" (Matthew 5:7)

- ◆ The Greek word for "Merciful" is (EKTELEO) and the Greek word for "Mercy" is (ELEEO)
- ◆ When you put the two together, the word "Mercy" means:
 - #1. The opposite of being hard.
 - #2. The opposite of being unfeeling.
 - #3. To be tolerant and kind.
 - #4. To exercise leniency and clemency.
 - #5. To be willing to spare.
 - #6. To deliberately forgive.

(What Is Mercy?)

- #1. It is an inward attitude from God that is exercised through you towards someone who has transgressed against you. (Repeat)
- #2. It is a spirit and mindset that is tolerant of others because God is tolerant towards you. (Repeat)

(In The Old Testament)

- ◆ The Hebrew word for "Mercy" is (KHEH-SED) and means: "Divine Favor"

The Question Is: How can a just and holy God find favor with us who have all sinned and come short of God's glory?

The Question Is: How can God's wrath against my sin be replaced by His mercy that gives me His favor?

(The answer is found in Exodus 25:17-22 and Hebrews 9:1-5 & 12)

Question: What was the Ark of the Covenant?

(Pg. 3 of 7)

Answer: It was the throne of God in the Old Testament.
(Exodus 25:10, 11 & 22) "And they shall make an Ark of acacia wood,...and overlay it with pure gold...and I will meet with you and commune with you".

What Was The Ark?

- #1. The Ark was a wooden box 4 feet long, 2 ½ feet wide and 2 ½ feet high.
- #2. It was the presence chamber of God throughout the years the tabernacle was in existence.
- #3. It was the place where God's visible brightness (or Shekinah) was dwelling in the Holy of Holies.
- #4. The other 5 pieces of furniture in the tabernacle were empty pieces if the Ark was not there.
- #5. Wherever Israel traveled, Israel was to carry the ark (symbolic of the presence of God dwelling in their midst).

Question: Pastor, is the presence of God really that important in my life?

Answer: It is more important than we realize:

- ◆ The Jordan River rolled back when Israel stepped in with the Ark. (Joshua 3:15-17)
- ◆ The Jericho walls came down when the Ark was carried around the impossible walls. (Joshua 6:9-20)
- ◆ When the Ark was placed by the Philistines in the house of their idol (Dagon), Dagon was crushed to pieces in God's presence. (1 Samuel 5:1-5) (Why?)
- ◆ Because no life is complete without the presence of God.
- ◆ Because life is void, and empty, and vain without the presence of Jesus!
- ◆ Because church isn't church unless the atmosphere testifies that Jesus is in this place.

Question: How many of you want the manifest presence of God all the days of your life?

(Let's Go From The Container To...)

◆ The Contents:

Question: Pastor, what was in the Ark of the Covenant?

Answer: 3 articles that speak to us all. (Read Hebrews 9:4)

#1. There Was The Jar Of Manna:

- ◆ This was a reminder to Israel of their grumbling and desire to go back into Egypt. (Exodus 16)

#2. There Was Aaron's Rod That Budded:

- ◆ This was a reminder to Israel of Korah's rebellion. (Numbers 16)

#3. There Was The Tables Of The Covenant

- ◆ This was the broken law of God because of Israel's failure when they danced a jig to the golden calf. (Exodus 32)

(Deuteronomy 31:26 Reads) "Take this book of the law and put it in the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against you". (In Other Words)

◆ The Ark with the broken law was a testimony of two things:

- #1. The law testified of the righteousness and holiness and expectation of God. (and)
- #2. The law testified of the sins and failures and backsliding of Israel.

(3 Words Leave Us In A Dilemma)

Word #1: Holiness, which means God is holy in character and nature (and without fault).

Word #2: Sinfulness, which means we've all been marred by sin and disturbed the personal relationship between God and ourselves.

Word #3: Wrath, which means God's holiness and our sinfulness demands satisfaction of the violated law of God.

Fact: To excuse sin means that God would cease to be God.

Fact: To not punish sin means that God becomes unholy.

Fact: So, to remedy the past, cover our sin and assure us of God's favor is the initiative of God.

Question: Why do we need the Mercy of God?

(The 3 Articles In The Ark)

#1. The broken law reveals failure in **relationship** with God:

◆ And we've all broken the law of God and need a Savior to pay our penalty.

Question: How many here have ever sinned against God?

#2. The jar of manna reveals failure in **fellowship** with God:

◆ And we've all murmured and complained and stewed at some time (which is doubting God's wisdom).

#3. The rod of Aaron reveals failure in **service** with God:

◆ We've all rebelled at some time and failed to quickly obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Question: How many here have ever resisted when the Holy Spirit was speaking?

Question: What is the answer to our dilemma?

Question: What unites our sinful hearts with a just and Holy and Perfect God?

◆ **The Covering** (Which is the Mercy Seat)

Exodus 25:17 & 21, "Make a mercy seat of pure gold...and put the mercy seat above, upon the Ark, and in the Ark thou shall put..."

(Hebrews 9: 4 & 5) "The Ark of the Covenant overlaid with gold, and the cherubims shadowing the mercy seat".

Question: How do we overcome the "Accuser of the brethren" (Revelations 12:10 & 11) and find favor with God?

Answer: The mercy seat above the Ark, guarded by two cherubims and covered with blood.

(Why The Mercy Seat?)

#1. The law condemned us because we broke the law when Adam sinned.

#2. God said, place the mercy seat over the Ark, so that I won't see the broken law.

#3. Cover the Ark with pure gold and place all of your past failures in the wooden box.

#4. Tell the priest to enter into the Holy of Holies once a year and sprinkle blood on the mercy seat.

#5. The golden mercy seat (with blood) will reveal the holiness of God is vindicated (or satisfied) by the death of Jesus.

(Romans 3:25 & 26)

(Pg. 5 of 7)

“Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins”. “To declare at this time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of those who believe in Jesus”.

Fact: The word “propitiation” in Romans 3:25 is the Greek word for “mercy seat”.

Fact: It means “covering” with an atoning sacrifice.

Fact: The “mercy seat” with blood teaches us all, that, God who is righteous, can pardon our sin because of the blood of another.

Question: Who is the other?

Answer: Hebrews 9:12, it's Jesus!!!

Question: Why the cherubims overshadowing the mercy seat?

The cherubims are consenting witness above the Ark, that God forgives and restores those who come His way.

(In Other Words)

#1. God's justice is now satisfied (and) #2. Man's forgiveness is now offered.

(One More Step)

- ◆ The word propitiation also comes from the Latin word “PROPE” which means “Near”.
- ◆ So, the word means, “To bring near”, “To reconcile”, and “To make favorable”. **(It Means:)**
- ◆ We've been brought near to God, have had our sins atoned for (covered) and now have favor with God because of the blood sacrifice of another!!!

#1. We've been **“Redeemed”** (which is the buying back by the paying of a price).

#2. We've been **“Reconciled”** (which is the act of bringing us back into right relationship with God).

#3. We've been **“Restored”** (into fellowship with God and are no longer at a distance).

III. Why Is Mercy So Important?

“Blessed are the merciful (why?) for they shall obtain mercy”

Grace...

- ◆ Is God giving us richly, that which we do not deserve!

Mercy...

- ◆ Is God withholding from us, that which we rightly deserve!

(The Hymn Writer Said:)

“Mercy there was great and grace was free, pardon there was multiplied to me, there my burden soul found liberty, at Cal-va-ry”.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ I come to the altar to **receive mercy** from God for my own sin, (and)
- ◆ I come to the altar to **give mercy** to everyone who has sinned against me.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ **Vertically** - I **receive** mercy that removes my penalty of guilt.
- ◆ **Horizontally** - I **extend** mercy that removes my pain of unforgiveness.

(In Other Words)

“Blessed are the merciful” Because:

- #1. You know what it means to live free from condemnation of sin against God, (and)
- #2. You know what it means to live free from concentration on those who have trespassed against you.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Blessed are the merciful because a merciful heart stays free from the baggage and bondage of bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness and self-destruction.

(James 2:13 Says:)

“There will be no mercy to those who have showed no mercy. But if you have been merciful, then God’s mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you”.

(It’s A Warning And A Promise)

- ◆ That the unmerciful will have to carry baggage while on earth (and face judgment without mercy in the end).

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Heaven won’t be populated later with un-forgivers (who were not merciful on earth).
- ◆ But earth can be populated now with healthy Christians who grant mercy to those who trespass against them.

Fact: Mercy allows you to be like Jesus who said “Father forgive them for they know not what they do”.

Altar Call

- #1. How many of you need mercy (you need God to forgive you of some present sin)?
- #2. How many of you need to extend mercy (to someone who has trespassed against you - someone you’ve had difficulty forgiving)?

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor

(Pg. 7 of 7)