

THE BEATITUDES, PART 2

MATTHEW 5:6-8

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. The Sermon on the Mount is a guide book for Christian living...it is a practical description of a life lived under the control of the Holy Spirit.
- b. Jesus began the Sermon on the Mount...by telling us how to find true and lasting happiness.
- c. Last week in the first three Beatitudes...we saw that the road to true happiness begins when a person understands how spiritually destitute they really are...when they are grieved over their sin...and when they surrender their life to God's control.
- d. Today we continue to look at the Beatitudes.

II. BLESSED ARE THE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST-

- a. *Mat 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."*
- b. This Beatitude describes someone who has...an ongoing appetite for God and the things of God.
- c. The Spirit-filled Christian will not be satisfied with knowing just a little bit about God...they will hunger and thirst to know everything they can about God.
- d. The Spirit-filled Christian will not be satisfied with being a little obedient to God...they will want to be totally obedient to God.
- e. They will not be satisfied with being somewhat right with God...they want to be totally right with God.
- f. They will not be satisfied with doing just a little bit for God...they want to do all they can do for God.
- g. This Beatitude describes someone who has a desire to ever be growing in their knowledge of God...in fellowship with God...in obedience to God ... and in service for God.
- h. Are you a satisfied Christian...or do you have this kind of hunger and thirst for God?...your answer says a lot about your walk with God.

- i. Jesus said, God will satisfy those who hunger and thirst for righteousness ... *James 4:8 "Draw nigh unto God and He will draw nigh unto you."*
- j. You can have all of God you want!

III. BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL-

- a. *Mat 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."*
- b. The word mercy means to...withhold the punishment that one deserves.
- c. The Bible says that we are saved by God's grace and mercy...grace is God giving to us what we do not deserve...mercy is God withholding from us what we do deserve.
- d. *Titus 3:4-5 "But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,"*
- e. Because of our sin we all deserve hell...but when we give our life to Christ ...He gives us the Heaven we don't deserve...and withholds the Hell we do deserve.
- f. The Bible says that those who receive God's mercy and forgiveness ... should be willing to be merciful and forgiving to others.
- g. *Eph 4:32 "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Col 3:13 "bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."*
- h. It is not always easy to forgive others...but the Holy Spirit will help us... the next time someone wrongs you, do this:
 - i. Be honest with God about your hurt...and ask Him to help you to forgive the one who has wronged you.
 - ii. If necessary...discuss the matter with the one who has wronged you...and offer them your forgiveness and reconciliation.
 - iii. Forgive the one who has offended you...whether they are willing to receive it or not.
- i. And, when we wrong others...we should seek forgiveness from God...and the person we have offended.

- j. Jesus promised that those who are merciful...will be shown mercy in this world and in eternity to come.

IV. BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART-

- a. *Mat 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."*
- b. Jesus is talking about spiritual and moral purity...happy is the person whose heart and life is clean before God.
- c. Sin pollutes the heart...and blinds the spiritual eye.
- d. If you want to see God's glory and majesty...if you want to see God's power at work in your life...then you must maintain a clean and pure heart and life before Him.
- e. How do you maintain purity?
 - i. Daily confession- *1 John 1:8-9 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
 - ii. Daily reading God's Word- *Psalms 119:11 "Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You."*
 - iii. Daily worship...daily yielding to the Holy Spirit...daily commitment to purity.

V. CONCLUSION-

- a. Happy is the one who hungers for God...happy is the one who is merciful and forgiving to others as God has been to them...happy is the one who is committed to moral purity and undivided devotion to God.
- b. The road to true happiness begins when a person admits their desperate need of God...when their heart breaks over their sin...when they surrender themselves to God's control.