

Title: Do You Really Care?

#6

Text: Matthew 5:7

We are ~~of the subject~~ ^{studying} of the Beatitudes. I invite you to open your Bibles to Matthew chapter 5. Matthew chapter 5 and verse 7: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

Let us look to the Lord in a moment of prayer

Our Father in heaven, we thank you for your Word which is precious to us. For it is the very seed which has produced the new birth and the very thing which will cause growth within us. We thank you that it is truth and that we can be sanctified by it. We thank you that in the pages of scripture there is eternal life. For they speak of Christ your only Son who gave his life on the cross for our sins. We thank you that Jesus is resurrected and He is coming back for us. We thank you, Father, for the many who have found you as Lord and saviour; and know what it means to know you and to be assured that one day they will be in heaven through faith in Jesus.

We pray that in this service your spirit will speak to our hearts. That we will all be aware of our need of Jesus. And we ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.....Amen. d

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By way of review in order to remain you in terms of the beatitudes there is a POSITION that is stated called "BLESSED". Of which there is an obvious PRACTICE that issues forth from this position. ^{Since} ~~If~~ you are blessed then ^{you practice right to be} ~~you are~~ "poor in spirit." If you are blessed you are "meek." Also, there is a wonderful promise which is given related to each of these beatitudes. A promise relating to eternal factors, as well as, right now.

We are actually progressing as we move ~~along~~ through the beatitudes. And God is taking us from the state of absolute brokenness by which he began the beatitudes into that state of spiritual maturity that can stand all kinds of persecutions, which is the eighth beatitude.

And on the way we seem to have ^{moved} jumped from the conditions were by we are responding to God, and now, we are looking at our responsibility towards one another.

We ended last time with ~~the~~ hunger and thirst after righteousness. Literally, after "the righteousness" which is Christ, himself. Hungering and thirsting after God. ^{4th, Beautiful what said to} Then The Promise - We shall be satisfied

^{and} Now we are moving ~~now~~, to How that will be produced. How the effectiveness of all these conditions that we have seen, will be evidenced in our relationship one with another. ~~It will be evidenced in caring~~

^{The 5th Beautiful} Now, we are ^{come tonight to} talking today, on the subject of "DO YOU REALLY CARE?" "Blessed ^{are the} ones showing mercy because they shall be shown mercy."

^{me} Notice, again, that the little word "for" is the word "because." The reason for the statement. "Blessed, is because they will be shown mercy."

^{Notice} the practice which demonstrates that, is, that they are definitely in their life by way of habit showing mercy in their life. And this proves that their condition and position is truly blessed in the lord

Blessed, again, does not depend upon outward circumstances. But it depends upon an inwardward relationship with God. It is different from the word "happiness" which is from the word "HAP" or "chance." Blessed comes from an internal state that is a ^{result of} God living in you.

^{me} And this is very important when we study the issue of who cares and who doesn't ^{care.} Because you could walk out of this church ^{tonight} today and decide that you are going to care for people. And then fall flat on your face with the first person you try to show mercy to.....Because, beloved, we are not possessed with these inter qualities in ourselves. It is God himself working in us that produces this kind of life that is truly blessed in showing mercy and really caring.

^{Now} (1B) ~~First of all~~, we want to examine the meaning of that phrase "showing mercy." What does it really mean? It can, also, be translated "showing compassion or pity." ^{And here is the place "showing mercy means two things what does it mean"}

(1B) I would like you to notice, first of all, that the Bible teaches that

(1) First of all, the Bible teaches that the phrase "showing mercy" means "to have compassion on those who are in need." "To have compassion on those who are in need. Now, let me illustrate by means of a number of examples from the Bible. Would you turn, please, to Matthew chapter 9. Matthew chapter 9 beginning with Vs 27...."as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying out, and saying, 'have mercy on us, Son of David.'"....And that is our root form "to show mercy." "Have mercy on us."

(Read Matt 9:28-31)

You see, they couldn't resist the temptation to tell folks how Jesus had shown mercy. So, Jesus saw their need and he showed mercy on them. *He acted*

(2C) Secondly, turn to Matthew chapter 15. Matthew chapter 15. Here is that unusally case of the woman of Caanan. The Caananites were a tribe of people crused by God. *The cruse was largely fulfilled by the destruction of the caananite nation by Rome in the Punic wars as Hannable, the leader of the Caananites, was destroyed. However, there were still a few Caananites in the time of our Lord. Simon the Apoostle was one. He was also a Zealot brought into the family of the disciples.*

And here in Matthew 15 we have another example. *so, here we have* A woman who was subject to the cruse of God and not liked very much by the children of Israel. Notice Matthew 15 verse 22.

(Read Matthew 15:22-28)

This Caanonite woman knew she needed the mercy of Jesus. Have mercy on me. She was a woman in need. Her daughter was demon possessed. *and Jesus had mercy on her he acted*

(3C) Turn over to Matthew chapter 20. In this third example we again have two blind men. Matthew chapter 20 verse 30.

(Read Matt 20:30-34)

You cannot devorce compassion from showing mercy. It is all a part of the same ball of wax. Have mercy on us, son of David. And Jesus was moved with compassion when he saw the longing of their hearts. They wanted to see. It is very clear. This is our need. And Jesus had compassion on them and healed them. *He acted. He did some thing*

Com

(40) Now, come to Mark chapter 10. Another case of a blind man. This man name was Bartimaeus. Mark chapter 10:46

(Read Mark 10:46- 48)

I notice something. When people are in need, it appears from the Gospel that even though people try to hold them back from cring out, they continue to appeal ^{For} to the mercy of God . They sense there need, deeply. And our Lord Jesus Christ, again, had compassion on him and he was healed.

(50) Luke chapter 1 is another fasinating example. Luke 1:27. In this case a woman named Elizabeth and her husband, Zacharias wanted a child. And God had mercy upon them.

(52) (Read Luke 1:57-58)

How is the principle that we need to learn
Showing God's mercy

God showed mercy on her and she had a son. ^{That's the} mercy always deals with God's actions. To show mercy, isn't to set at home in front of your T.V. and care about all the people you think about in this world. To show mercy is to have action. It is to do something about the compassion you say you have. ~~That compassion come from God - Christ - to act - thus obedient~~

You see ^{To} ~~God's~~ care is not something that is passive. It is not something you can say you have by setting in a pew and never do anything about ^{it} He who shows mercy, he shall obtain mercy. And this deals with actions. Not just thoughts and meditations about those in need. ^{OK that is the first meaning}

(60) Let's move on. There is a ^{another} ~~60~~ example which is perhaps the greatest of all in terms of teaching. Luke chapter 10:30. This is the story of the Good Samaritan. And I doubt seriously that you will find a better example of showing mercy. ~~Mark 10:30~~ Luke chapter 10:30

(read Luke 10:30-32)

You Know, there are some people who are not as bad as that Priest. They really do care. And they think of people in need. And the compassion of your heart causes you to feel compassion for a moment. ^{Levi} But, again, I say to you, if you do not act, if there is no action behind our compassion that is not what the Bible is saying in showing mercy.

(Read luke 10:33-35)

Do you not understand? True compassion, true mercy results in action. This Samaritan bandaged up his wounds and the Bible says he took care of him. And Vs 35 tells us that this Samaritan not only took care of the need of the moment, he not only got a place for him to stay, but he said to the innkeeper, what ever it cost to keep this man I will pay you.

Notice Jesus' respons...(read Vs 36)

Of course the answer is so obvious...Vs 37...^{He}~~Jesus~~ said, the one who showed mercy toward him." There is our word...~~Blessed~~, the one showing mercy, for they shall obtain mercy." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same." This is a command...Jesus said, if you love me you will keep my commandments.....Showing mercy, results in action

(7C) Look at Luke chapter 16:24. This is the story of the rich man who has died and gone to Hell, the place of the departed dead, and there is a great division between him, the wicked, and Lazarus who was in Abraham's bosom. And he knew the seriousness of his condition.

(read luke 16:23-24)

Then Abraham gave him the message that it was to late. You know the Lord spoke to my heart about this one, also. It was to late for the rich man in ~~Hades~~. But, listen, written there in the lines is showing mercy to a lost person who hasn't yet gone to ~~Hades~~. Father Abraham have mercy on me.

When I think of acts of mercy I think of some definite things which are given in the Gospel. Such as: the case of the good Samaritan; but here it appears that the ^{showing} mercy is deliverance from torment. And some of us do not even show mercy in terms of sharing the Gospel of Christ with lost men and woman. ~~Have~~ Have mercy on me... [You want to know what it is like for people in Hell, here is a discription. God has given it to us. A person who is in torment. The Bible says there is weeping and mashing of teeth. It is outer darkness. And people would like to exscape if they could...

Have mercy on me... Oh, if there had only been a Christian who would have shown mercy towards me by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. ...Here is a tremendous picture of what Hell is all about... and also, and interesting and

~~18~~

And, also, an interesting and very challenging description of what it means to show mercy. *By Sharing The Gospel with people who are lost*

(80) I would like you to turn to Luke chapter 17. You will remember the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus and only one was thankful.

(read luke 17:11-43)

Lepercy..the most feared disease of the ancient and modern world. David compared sin with the leper. He likened the seriousness of sin with that awful sickness of lepercy.

And here are ten men crying out for help. Have mercy on us.

So, very few people have compassion and want to show mercy. One doesn't have to spend too long in the hospitals of our cities before he gets a heart that is heavy with those who are in need. ~~Doctors, who are exposed to it all the time realize the world is in need.~~ And the Bible challenges Christians to show mercy. And we ask ourselves, in what way? How can I do this? Is it really important? Maybe it was something for the days of Jesus but not now? Oh, yes.... *As a matter of fact, God says it is a spiritual gift.*

Out

(90) Let's move on....Epaphroditus is another interesting example. Phillippians chapter 2:25....Epaphroditus is a friend of Paul's

(read Phil 2:25-28)

I would like you to notice something in that passage. God showed mercy in healing Epaphroditus. But he showed mercy to Paul in revealing a burdened heart for his brother who was ill. And *Paul* said to the people, I want you to rejoice in this man of God who has served you that I may be the less sorrowful or concerned. That I may receive more mercy...

And the ~~on~~ Lord, showed me again, that showing mercy is relieving the heavy hearts and burdens of people. *And if you want mercy, you must show mercy*

(Read vs 29-30)

(10C) 2 Timothy, please, 2 Timothy chapter 1. Here we have the case of Paul being refreshed by a man named Onesiphorus. Paul was in prison in Rome when he wrote 2 Timothy. Shortly after the writing of this letter Paul was sentenced to death.

(read 2 Timothy 1:16-18)

The Lord is teaching here that it is very important if we really have the compassion of Christ and want to show mercy, to seek out those in need and those we might minister to. A lot of us don't take the time because, frankly, we are not concerned.

Notice, also, vs 18 if you want others to show mercy to you, you must first show mercy.

(11C) Finally, Hebrews chapter 4:15-16...According to the Bible, Christians with all their ~~weaknesses~~ ^{firmness} have had the mercy of God shown upon them.

(read 4:15-16)

God is the one who continues to show mercy. Shows mercy towards what? Our weaknesses...What does it mean to show mercy?...To have compassion on those who are in need. To be willing to do something about ~~it~~ ^{Needs} To act...

Again, let me remind you that "blessedness" is different from "happiness". Happiness is dependent upon outside circumstances. "Blessedness" is dependent upon ~~the~~ your internal relationship with God. You can't just drum up a compassionate heart. Compassion comes from Jesus Christ.

You cannot just walk out of here and hope in some way that you will now care for people. It doesn't work that way. It comes, because you are already "blessed". ~~and~~ those who are blessed are the ones who are continuing to show mercy by way of actions. So, it does involve compassion on those in need. ~~However, showing mercy, is a little deeper~~

(2B) Secondly, "Showing Mercy" involves care that goes beyond mere performance. *We are now going to talk about our motives behind our actions.*

Now, a lot of people really believe they are showing mercy by simply there acts. While there must be acts in order for it to be showing mercy, yet, it is not only acts that are involved. Your actions are not all there

is To Showing Mercy. You see, we are moving now from MLK to the heart of the Gospel

(1C) Turn to Hosea, please, chapter 6. Hosea chapter 6. Hosea follows the book of Daniel in your O.T. This is a fantastic story of a man who had compassion and mercy upon a wife who went into adultery. And it becomes a beautiful example of the love of Jesus for those who ^{are} sin. In the midst of this book there are some tremendous examples of the mercy of God as it relate to His love and forgiveness.

Hosa chapter 6 verse 6 says: "For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings."

You know, there is a serious problem among we ~~who~~ are christians? We have come to believe that performance in the Lord's work, activity alone, is going to some how fulfill what God wants from us. And dear friends, nothing could be further from the truth. To know God is more important than to do anything, quote, for him. To have mercy and love is more important than the actual acts of sacrifice and burnt offerings ~~is~~ the point. It is more important what we are inside than what we are doing on the outside is the Biblical principle.

(2c) But don't stop there
~~(2c) But don't stop with this~~ principle. Apply the next principle, also. Hosea 6:6 is quoted by Jesus in Matthew chapter 9. Would you turn there please. Matthew chapter 9 beginning at Vs 10...

Vs 10.."And it happened that as He was reclining at table in the house, behold many tax-gatherers and sinners came and joined Jesus and His disciples at the table."

Someone has said that the test of whether you have compassion, or not, is how many sinners want to come to talk with you. They just came to Jesus to talk with him.

Vs 11... "And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with the tax-gatherers and sinners?" The whole doctrine of separation was at stake as far as they were concerned.

Vs 12.... "But when He heard this, He said, 'It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are ill. But go and learn what this means, 'I desire compassion, not sacrifice,'" (there is your quote from Hoseas 6:6) for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'"

Now, please

~~I hope you~~ realize that the Pharisees were very sincere men. They were religious men. Totally dedicated. And they believed that they were the most religious of their day. And they had reason to believe that, They lived more godly lives than the average person. They did more things, according to the O.T. law than all the rest of the people. And so, when they stood in the streets and prayed that they had done all these things, they were sincere and truthful.

But, the trouble is that these men missed the internal qualities of what God wanted in their hearts. Their righteousness was only that which was external. { Much like what happens in the lives of some christians. Many christians loss sight of what should be on the inside. And we concentrate on externals. God wants mercy. Acts of compassion that motivates from hearts of love.

And what a beautiful example. Here are sinners and tax-collectors. And Jesus said, "Listen, those who are healthy don't need a doctor. But ^{only} those who are ill. Showing mercy must go beyond mere performance. It must come from hearts of love.

(3C) Now, look at Matthew chapter 12. Matthew chapter 12 verse 7.

Here is another example of conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees over the law. And the concern was eating on the Sabbath. And Jesus quoted to them the example of David who ^{ate} ~~are~~ the show bread *on the Sabbath*

Matta. 12:7 says .."But if you had ~~known~~ what this means, I desire compassion, and not a sacrifice, you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

You see, so often people are only concentrating on what we do or we don't do...And all along they are missing the very heart of the matter which is CARING...Which is an internal relationship with God that is based on love. You see, there must be care that goes beyond mere performance.

Dear friends, I don't know what it is like in your life. But, I know that in my life ~~it~~ is so easy to just perform, just to do, just to go through the motions and not to really care at all. And that is the point we must see.

(4C) I notice, also, from James 2:13 that this is tremendously emphasized to us in terms of having concern for all men. James chapter 2. Would you turn there, please.

I hope you know this story. There are two men who walk into church. One was a poor man in dirty clothes. The other was a rich man with gold rings and dressed in fine clothes. And these two walked into church. And the members had respect unto him who had the fine clothing. And they told him to take the seat of honor. But, to the poor dirty man they told him to set in the corner. And James says "Are you not showing partiality among yourselves and becoming judges with evil motives?" Do you really have love on your hearts as he says in Vs 8, "You should love your neighbor as yourself."

(Read James 2:9-13)

What a tremendous conclusion to the problem of partiality. And not having concern for all people, but favoring one over another. James says that it involves showing mercy. That is what it involves. If you really are showing mercy, then your concern must be broad enough to include all people. No matter who they are. No matter who God might send your way. Oh, how we need to lift up our eyes and just look at the many lonely people.

I was watching a T.V. talk show and the people there were discussing the subject of loniless. And how many lonely people there are. And no one seemed to care anymore. Yet, it was abvious that no one in that discussion really cared. They agreed that the world was moving away from the principle of caring. And they were in hope that someone, somewhere, at sometime would change it. But, they were not willing to make the effort.

Oh, friends, we can change it...We really can....HOW?....By letting the compassion of Christ flow through us....PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO REALLY ^{From The Heart} CARES.....Great churches with great ministries don't just happen. They happen because people, like you and me, start caring. A caring that comes from the heart *that motivates to act*

(5C) I learn, also, that showing mercy is a spiritual gift. Would you turn to Romans chapter 12 verse 8. Romans 12 verse 8....

I believe, as we have seen from the Word of God, that all christians should show mercy. Please remember that. We are all to show mercy. And this mercy must come from hearts of love. ^{Hearts that love} But, God, also, tells us that there are certain christians within the body who have the spiritual gift of showing mercy. Romans 12:8 says..."he who shows mercy, with ^{cheerfulness} ~~carefulness~~."

I do not want to, at this time, go into the operation of Spiritual gifts But, the reason I mention this verse is because of the word "cheerfulness." This applies to every one of us. You ^{must} ~~cannot~~ show mercy with~~out~~ cheerfulness. This word "cheerfulness" means a "willingness to show mercy with a joyful spirit. Always ready to joyfully respond." Not responding with hostility. Not responding with a long face. But being excited about caring for others.

^{had a dream, the other night} I ~~have a prayer~~....that we all got so feeled up with God's love that we wanted to do something for someone. And the whole church got a hold of that feeling; and it began to spread to other christians. And then the city of Alameda got ahold of that feeling and ^{we} began to see the compassion of Jesus. WOULDNT'T THAT BE TREMENDOUS?

Oh, friends, if we could only capture the vision of Jesus when He saw the multitudes and the Bible says that He was moved with compassion. Wouldn't that be a wonderful thing?

COULD IT HAPPEN?.....Sure it could.....When we put this beatitude to practice in our lives.....BLESSED, THE ONES SHOWING MERCY, FOR THEY SHALL BE THE ONES WHO RECEIVE MERCY.....

LET US CLOSE IN PRAYER

Position = Blessed
Practice = Showing mercy
Promise - You shall receive mercy.