

CONFIRMATION
“Being Givers, NOT Takers”
11/26/06

Text: Matthew 5:7

“⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

SUMMARY --

The first four “BEATITUDES” are entirely inner principles, dealing with how you see yourself before God....

The first four “BEATITUDES” line up with the last four. The first four are inner attitudes and the last four are the things the attitudes manifest. *SEE Chart....*

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| <i>“³ Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”</i> | → | <i>“⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”</i> |
| <i>“⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”</i> | → | <i>“⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”</i> |
| <i>“⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”</i> | → | <i>“⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”</i> |
| <i>“⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”</i> | → | <i>“¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”</i> |

What does Jesus mean here when He says, *“⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy”*? Simply this: You be merciful to others, and *GOD* will be merciful to you.

MERCY & L

MERCY & G

MERCY & J

MANIFESTING MERCY --

Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it: *“The church is herself only when she exists for humanity... She must take her part in the social life of the world, not lording it over men, but helping and serving them. She must tell men, whatever their calling, what it means to live in Christ, to exist for others.”*

A few practical ways that we can show MERCY.

1. When we see a person in need and you can meet their need, do so.
James 2:15-16 – *“¹⁵ Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, ¹⁶ and you say, “Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?”*
2. Fully forgive anyone who is indebted to you in their behavior or attitude.
Colossians 3:12-15 – *“¹² God has chosen you and made you his holy people. He loves you. So always do these things: Show mercy to others, be kind, humble, gentle, and patient. ¹³ Get along with each other, and forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, forgive that person because the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ Do all these things; but most important, love each other. Love is what holds you all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking, because you were all called together in one body to have peace. Always be thankful.”*
3. Employ the quality of giving understanding, a listening ear a try before judgment.