

Counter Culture Mercy and Purity of Heart - Matthew 5:7-8

Matthew 5:7-8 - "God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God."

1. Blessed are the merciful. This crowd didn't want to think about mercy. They were angry, and they wanted justice. They were a people who had been conquered, and they had a history of being persecuted.

A. Mercy is compassion for people in need and forgiveness of those who do not deserve it.

James 2:15-16 - "Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, 'Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well' - but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?"

1 John 3:17 - "If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion - how can God's love be in that person?"

Jesus demonstrated mercy for us.

Hebrews 4:14-15 - "So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin."

There are two ways in which we can show the compassion and mercy Christ calls for.

1. Forgiving those who have wronged us.
2. Aiding those in need.

The Good Samaritan story Jesus told in Luke 10 shows us what mercy looks like.

- To have compassion and show mercy means that I may have to give up _____
- To have compassion and show mercy means that I may have to give _____
- To have compassion and mercy means I may be _____

- To have compassion and mercy means I will help even if I don't _____ the person.

- To have compassion and mercy means I will help even if they did something _____

- To have compassion and mercy means I will help even if _____ and pass by.

- To have compassion and mercy means I will help even if it's _____

B. How do you develop this kind of compassion?

There is a progression in the beatitudes. Those who are poor in spirit and are meek know they are just as dependent on God as anyone else. They know that they have received abundant mercy from God to be made spiritually rich in Christ, and they cannot help but want to extend that mercy to others, because it is a tangible way they can say thank you to God.

C. For they shall receive mercy.

Matthew 6:14 -
Matthew 18:21ff -

If we do not extend mercy, we cannot claim to have been touched by and changed by the grace of God in our own lives.

2. Blessed are the pure in heart.

A. We are all familiar with what pure means. It is to be 100% something, to be undiluted. But what is it to be pure in "heart?" It is to be utterly sincere in what you do and say. It is more than just doing the right thing, but to do the right thing with the right motivation in your heart. It is the opposite of hypocrisy.

The history behind the word hypocrite. hupocritos =

B. For they shall see God.

They will see Him now with the eyes of faith, and they will see Him in heaven where the purity of their hearts will be pleasing to the Father and will be seen by all others.

The pure in heart can truly look forward to meeting God.