

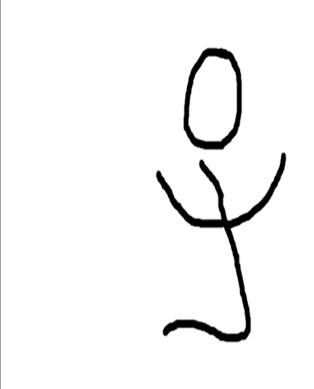
THE BEATITUDES

MATTHEW 5:3-12



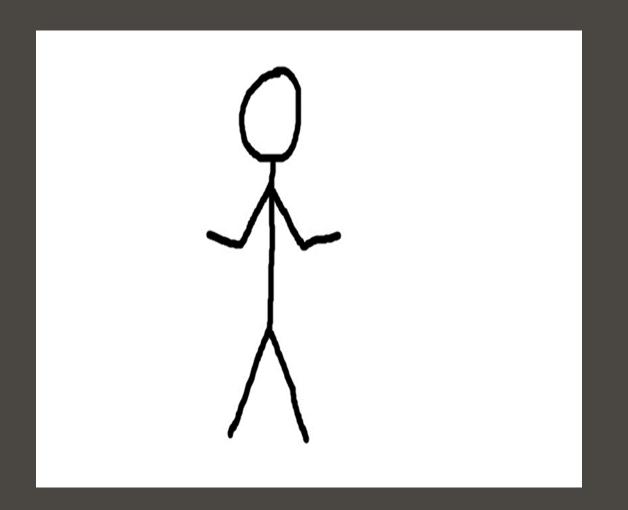
THE NEED BEATITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit Blessed are those who mourn Blessed are the meek Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.



THE HELP BEATITUDES

Blessed are the merciful Blessed are the pure in heart Blessed are the peacemakers







A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

MATTHEW 9

"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:13



When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36







There is morality that hardens, that makes one more severe with others the more one has learned to be severe with oneself. This is a tempting route of sacrifice-centered, spiritual-disciplines-focused, perfectionist, higher-life, and consciousness-raising ethics. But the first test of obedience to Jesus' ethic is not whether obedience makes one morally tougher but whether it also makes one mercifully softer.

Dale Bruner









For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them.

2 Corinthians 5:19 (NLT)



Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:7-8.







WHAT'S THE RISK OF "NO MERCY"?

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1. God's anger.

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- 1. God's anger.
- 2. Giving ground to the enemy.

1. Receive mercy yourself.

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- 2. Rediscover the humanity of those around you.

Forgiving our enemy does not turn him into a close friend or a promising husband or a trustworthy partner. We do not diminish the wrongness of what they did to us. We do not blind ourselves to the reality that they are perfectly capable of doing it again. But we take him or her back into our private world as a person who shares our faulty humanity, bruised like us, faulty like us, still thoroughly blamable for what they did to us. Yet, human like us.

Lewis Smedes



- 1. Receive mercy yourself.
- 2. Rediscover the humanity of those around you.
- 3. Practice.



- 1. Receive mercy yourself.
- 2. Rediscover the humanity of those around you.
- 3. Practice.
- 4. Return to "Ground Zero" often.

Leader: Blessed Jesus, you offered us all your

blessings when you announced, "Blessed

are the poor in spirit."

Congregation: But we have been rich in pride.

Leader: Blessed are those who mourn

Congregation: But we have not known much sorrow for

our sin.

Leader: Blessed are the meek

Congregation: But we are a stiff-necked people.

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for

righteousness

Congregation: But we are filled to the full with other things.

Leader: Blessed are the merciful

Congregation: But we are harsh and impatient.

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart

Congregation: But we have impure hearts.

Leader: Blessed are the peacemakers

Congregation: But we have not sought reconciliation.

Leader: Blessed are those who are persecuted because

of righteousness

Congregation: But our lives do not challenge the world.

Leader: Blessed are you when congregation insult you,

persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil

against you because of me

Congregation: But we have hardly made it known that we are yours.

Leader:

Your Law is holy and your blessings are perfect, but they are both too great for us. You alone are blessed.

Congregation: Because of the body and blood of Jesus, we ask for your mercy. Forgive our sins and give us the blessing of your righteousness.

