



*The Good Life*  
ACCORDING TO THE BEATITUDES

# THE BEATITUDES

MATTHEW 5:3-12



THE BEATITUDES PAINT A COMPOSITE  
PICTURE OF THE GOOD LIFE

# 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





QUESTION #1

WHAT DOES MERCY LOOK LIKE?



Mercy = Compassion for those in need.

# 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

*Blessed are...*

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

Matthew 9:36

*Blessed are...*



Mercy = Compassion for those in need.



Mercy = Compassion for those in need.  
(and don't deserve it)

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

*Blessed are...*

QUESTION #2  
WHY MERCY?





QUESTION #2  
WHY MERCY?

- God doesn't give us what we deserve.  
+ God gives us what we don't deserve.





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

2 Corinthians 5:19 (NLT)

*Blessed are...*

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.

*Blessed are...*



QUESTION #3

WHAT IF I'M NOT INTO MERCY?



WHAT'S THE RISK OF "NO MERCY"?

# WHAT'S THE RISK OF "NO MERCY"?

1. God's anger.

# WHAT'S THE RISK OF "NO MERCY"?

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

HOW TO LIVE A MERCY-RICH LIFE



# HOW TO LIVE A MERCY-RICH LIFE

1. Receive mercy yourself.

# HOW TO LIVE A MERCY-RICH LIFE

1. Receive mercy yourself.
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

*Blessed are...*

# HOW TO LIVE A MERCY-RICH LIFE

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



# HOW TO LIVE A MERCY-RICH LIFE

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.



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