

Matthew 5:7-8 (NIV)

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

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

40-05-15-The 5th & 6th Beatitudes

salvation, sanctification, mercy, purity, Christ indwelling

Mat 5:7-8

The Christian's secret of a happy life is the joy of abiding in Christ.

INTRODUCTION:

–As we began this series, I stated a theme: “True blessedness is *taught* by Jesus and *caught from* Jesus.” The **5th & 6th beatitudes** (“*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy*” and “*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*”) expand that theme: HOM.idea. [Hannah Whitall Smith, in her book *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*, said, “The character of the worshiper must necessarily be molded by the character of the object worshipped.”] –These *attitudes of being* reside in the *character of God*, and we absorb them by abiding in Christ. He saved us not just to cleanse us from sin but to make His divine character operative in us. In these 2 beatitudes especially, we see that what brought us salvation and what's behind our sanctification are both the *be-attitudes for which God created us and without which* no human can be truly *blessed and happy*. Let's look at:

- I. The Beatitude of Being Merciful– v.7, *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.***
- A. Sympathy is closely related to mercy: one is a feeling of the heart, the other an action of the will. (By being created in *God's image*, humans can have both, and Jesus portrayed both as our “high priest who” could perfectly “sympathize with our weaknesses,” **Heb 4:15**).
1. Sympathy [lit.: to “*suffer together*” in another's pain or sorrow] is built-in as a human reflex [It makes tearjerker movies successful!]. (But God's willingness to “suffer together” with us, is why we have salvation.)
 2. God's sympathy for us motivated His action of mercy in doing whatever it took to save us. (This *merciful* God wants us to act as He does: being *merciful* to those who have sinned *against us*, as He is *merciful* to **us** who have sinned *against Him*.)
- B. We seek God's mercy for all our needs, but when it comes to the need to be forgiven, our prayer is: “Lord, have **mercy** on me, a sinner.”
1. By **His answer of mercy**, God shows us how we're to respond to those who need **our forgiveness**– **Mat 18:21-22**, Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven

times, but seventy-seven times. (God doesn't stop forgiving our sins, and never should we stop forgiving those who sin against us.)

2. His love doesn't tally up the number of times He's forgiven us, but His mercy toward us in salvation shows how we're to extend mercy and forgiveness to those we think might not deserve it.
 3. The power for this be-attitude of being merciful is from having the God of mercy indwelling us, and how we tap into that power is abiding in the Christ Who mercifully sought us as lost sheep.
- C. **The promise of this beatitude** is that "*they will be shown mercy*"
1. Jesus showed us His sympathy by His Incarnation, but we were shown His mercy through the salvation He paid for on the Cross.
 2. To abide in Christ is to live life with our merciful, indwelling Savior in control, and that will make us into the "merciful" people who will bypass the coming judgment— **James 2:12-13**. Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

TRANS: The "law that gives freedom" is a love that shows mercy. There is no freedom in an unforgiving heart. The divine mercy we've received is the divine light we're to live up to. "*But how can I live up to the light of Him Who is 'the light of the world'?*" Only by abiding in Him: tapping into the life of Christ living within. That's **the secret of a happy life**. Next,

II. The Beatitude of Being *Pure in Heart*— **v.8**, *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God*.

- A. **1 Sam 16:7b** says, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (God wants "pure" hearts where He feels at home.) ["Pure" in Greek means: 1) cleansed, as a filthy outfit is washed; or 2) purged, like an army with all unfit soldiers eliminated; or 3) unadulterated, like wine or milk without any water added, or like pure metal with no alloy mixed in.]
- B. These 3 concepts clarify our need to become "pure in heart" through self-examining questions we ask in God's sanctification process:
1. *Are we carrying in our hearts the baggage of unconfessed sin?* (If so, we must apply **1 John 1:9**. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.)
 2. *Are we Christ's loyal soldiers?* (If not, let's heed **Eph 5:3**. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.)

3. *Is our walk with Christ mixed with harmful attitudes? (If so, we must bring them to His Table and leave them there— **1 Cor 5:7b-8**.* For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.
- C. *Our will* is crucial in this sanctification process, which isn't really a religious task, but a relational tie we build by abiding in Christ— **1 Cor 1:30**. Christ Jesus... has become for us wisdom from God— that is, our righteousness, **holiness** and redemption. (Being *conscious* and *responsive* each day to His indwelling presence purifies us in those 3 ways: cleansing "us from all unrighteousness," purging away what's "improper for God's holy people" and making us single-mindedly devoted to Him and to the "sincerity and truth" that characterizes the "*pure in heart*."
- D. **This beatitude's promise** is that "*they will see God*."
1. Even during *this* life, abiding in the Christ Who indwells us can help us see God in nature, in circumstances, and in people.
 2. But at the end of our earthly sojourn, we will share Job's joyous testimony after his time of painful testing— **Job 42:5** (KJV) "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee."

CONCLUSION:

- I want to close by reading again **Mat 5:7-8**, *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*
- This, indeed, is the blessed **joy of abiding in Christ**, as well as **the Christian's secret of a happy life**.