

THEME FOR THE MONTH: WORSHIP AS A LIFESTYLE

TOPIC: JESUS' TEACHING ON THE BEATITUDES II

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATTHEW 5:7-12

MEMORY VERSE: HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO ARE MERCIFUL TO OTHERS: GOD WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEM! (MATT 5:7)

TEACHING OBJECTIVES: BY THE END OF THE LESSON, THE CHILD WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. STATE THE LAST FOUR BEATITUDES.
2. STATE THE BLESSINGS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH OF THE BEATITUDES.

CENTRAL TRUTH: GOOD ATTITUDES ARE VIRTUES THAT GLORIFY GOD

HYMNS: MHB

INTRODUCTION: While we are still in Lent, we will look at some of the things God expects us to do or how we should be in our attitude. We want to focus on the second half of the Beatitudes this week.

EXPOSITION: The Lord's Kingdom is for the people who want to live like Christ. The last 4 of the Beatitudes (Be-Attitudes) are as follows:

The **merciful are blessed**, for they shall obtain mercy. To be merciful means to be actively compassionate. In one sense it means to withhold punishment from offenders who deserve it. In a wider sense, it means to help others in need who cannot help themselves. God showed mercy in sparing us from the punishment our sins deserved, and in demonstrating kindness to us through the saving work of Jesus. We imitate God when we have compassion. To obtain mercy does not mean mercy of salvation which God gives to a believing sinner; that mercy is not dependent on a person being merciful. It is a free unconditional gift. In this lesson, the Lord is speaking of the daily mercy needed for Christian living. If one is not merciful, that person will not receive mercy.

The **pure in heart** shall see God. A pure hearted person is one whose motives are genuine, whose thoughts are holy, and whose conscience is clean. The

expression they shall see God may be understood in many ways.

- i. The pure in heart see God through fellowship in the word and the spirit.
- ii. They sometimes have a supernatural vision of the Lord.
- iii. They shall see God in the person of Jesus Christ when He comes again.
- iv. They shall see God in eternity.

A blessing is pronounced on **the peace maker**; they shall be called sons of God. It should be noted that God is not talking about people with a peaceful nature but those who have peace. He is referring to those who actively intervene to make peace. Peace makers are called sons of God. This is not how they become sons of God, and that it can happen only by receiving Jesus Christ as Saviour.

The next beatitude is about **those who are persecuted for righteousness**, the kingdom of God is for them. The kingdom of heaven is promised to those believers who suffer for doing right. Their integrity condemns the ungodly world and brings out anger. People out of that anger do all manner of bad things to you including killing. This is what we call persecution for Christ's sake. The Lord knew that His disciples would be maltreated because of their association with, and loyalty to Him. In history, the early church was persecuted, jailed, and killed. To suffer for Christ's sake is a privilege that should come with joy because a great reward awaits them.

The beatitude presents a portrait (picture) of the ideal citizen in Christ's kingdom. Check the emphasis on righteousness, peace, and joy. Maybe Paul had this passage in mind when he wrote, for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17).

SAVED CHILD: Be merciful because the merciful are compassionate and will obtain mercy from the Lord. The pure in heart would see God, therefore as you want to see God be pure in heart. Be peaceful all the time and you will be called a child of God. Those who are persecuted for being righteous have their reward in the kingdom of Heaven.

UNSAVED CHILD: The Lord promises the kingdom of heaven to the faithful followers or disciples. Invite Jesus to be your Lord and personal Saviour.