

**Beatitudes**  
**What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed**

## BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO IS MERCIFUL

Text: Matthew 5:7

Introduction:

1. The biblically blessed are those who depend upon God.
2. They inherit the promise made to Abraham by submission to God.
3. Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by describing foundational attitudes that are necessary to follow Him.
4. The first "beatitude" is to be poor in spirit.
5. The second "beatitude" is to mourn.
6. The third "beatitude" is meekness.
7. The fourth "beatitude" is hunger for righteousness.
8. The fifth "beatitude" is to be merciful...

I. The Context

- A. The Sermon on the Mount.
- B. The Beatitudes build upon one another.
  1. The first four teach how to be saved.
  2. The last four teach how to stay saved.

II. The Characteristic

- A. "Merciful" - *compassionate, one who helps those seeking aid.*
- B. Strong defines mercy (*eleos* [ἐλεος]) as "active compassion."
- C. Thayer says that it is "kindness or good will towards the miserable and afflicted, joined with a desire to help them."
- D. Mercy is the opposite of justice – not receiving the punishment one deserves.
  1. This does not mean that God is not just.
  2. He allowed His Son to bear the punishment for all men (1 Timothy 1:14-15; Ephesians 2:4-5; 1 John 4:10).
- E. Mercy is actively seeking the best for those who are the worst (Luke 10:37; Romans 5:8).
- F. The Jews had a two-fold understanding of mercy.
  1. To give alms to those in need.
  2. To pardon or forgive the injuries of another.
- G. Mercy is a personal responsibility (Luke 19:10; Matthew 25:31ff).
- H. Mercy is a prayerful responsibility (1 Timothy 2:1-4).
- I. Mercy is a practical responsibility (Luke 10:25-37).
- J. Mercy is a passionate responsibility (Matthew 18:21-35).

III. The Christian

- A. The follower of Christ will have compassion for the less fortunate.
- B. The follower of Christ will have compassion on the lost.
- C. Thus, the Christian will obtain mercy from God (Matthew 6:14-15).