

Ultimate Blessedness

2023.12.10 Morning Sermon in **Matthew 5:7–9**

7Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

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

9Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Main idea: When God starts making a sinner to be like Himself, He always finishes by giving him the ultimate blessedness of a singular pleasure and a singular purpose in God Himself.

Introduction: Ending what we were and becoming what we are.

1. **Becoming like God**, v7

- a. Being genuinely merciful comes only by grace
- b. Have been shown mercy and are being shown mercy
- c. But the greatest mercies are yet to come

2. **Singular Pleasure: desiring God**, v8

- a. Cleansed not just from filthiness but from competition
- b. Not just pure hands or pure lips but pure heart
- c. The blessing here exactly matches the character of the blessed

3. **Singular Purpose: imaging God**, v9

- a. A peacemaker is what a believer is in this world
- b. Peacemaking trinity
- c. Conformity to the Son is the destiny of the saint

Conclusion: Believers are blessed already, so if you are one, be glad in the happy changes that the Lord has made in you already. But, even more so, be glad in that blessing which is to come!

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Matthew 5 verse seven through nine, these are God's words. Blessed, are the merciful? For they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure and heart. For they shall see god. Blessed are the peacemakers. For they shall be called. Sons. Of god. Amen. Please be seated.

There's a great blessing for a believer who realizes that. That is god who started the work in his life. That it is god who called us? Made that effectual call that work of his spirit. And Our hearts, that gave us to see the light of the knowledge of his glory, in the face of jesus christ, Because, Of what that indicates reaching backwards.

Into all eternity. What that indicates reaching forward into all eternity? What that indicates about ourselves now? You may have recognized of course that We're thinking about that blessedness, that is in that section which is a favorite of many in Romans 8. Verse. Verse 28 is one that a lot of people, the whole things work together for good, but Uh, really.

Verse 29 through 32. Is often the meat and drink of the believers of it. That whom he for knew, he predestined to me, predestined. He also called So that it's not just that god has Powerfully sovereignly all mightily. Uh, worked in our hearts to save us that precious truth against which Many not knowing how they harm themselves.

Um, resist. Uh, but That. This work began or has its sourced in. Uh, to be more correct because it didn't have a beginning. It has its source in and everlasting love. Those whom he for needed. That everlasting purpose. He also predested. And so, We have a blessedness that belongs to god.

He is the one who began the work. Because his intentions toward it is determination about the end of it, did not actually have a beginning and therefore he who began the work will be sure to complete it. In fact, not only will he be sure to complete it eventually, but he is surely doing the work unto completing it now.

And that's an idea behind the transition as we come into verses 7 through 9. The first four, the attitudes are Blessings that look at what we have been our eager To be done. Uh, to be done with. Our. Bankruptcy of spirit and to have to have christ and inherit Um, with him.

To have done with our morning of a remaining sin. To. To not. To finish the period in which we cry out wretched, man, that i am, who will save me from the body of this death. To have done. With that humiliation, that must proceed exaltation. Even as it had to, for our lord jesus in his humanity.

He endured his humiliation first and yet his exalted forever. And so we humble ourselves. We are the meek. To have done. With hungering and thirsting. And coming at last to the day. That not only are we perfected in righteousness, But the lord has brought us into and made for us and you haven't and a new earth.

And which righteousness dwells? And indeed, where his dwelling. His tabernacling. As with his people. And even son and moon are obsolete. Because he himself and the lamb. Are the light of the place. And so there's much. Of our blessedness. That is focused, especially on ending. What we were? But verses 7 through 9 focus, especially upon Becoming.

What we are? A work that has begun. And making us merciful. And making us pure and heart. And making us. Makers of peace. A work that. In the believer in this life seems to be very small indeed so far. What the smallest part of that, which is in christ is in christ.

A work that shall be completed. A work that shall be perfected. And so, we are in a place in the course of The Beatitudes of the, in the sermon, on the Mount, where we are. Shifting towards or At least indeed. We hope to cover today. Becoming. What we are?

And we see first that, How we are becoming like god. Verse 7. To the merciful, you show, mercy said the psalm and now blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain. Mercy, says the beatitude Uh, so first Bluster. The merciful becoming like god. And then the second place, The singular pleasure of the he gives us.

As we become like god and more specifically, as we've become like, god, the son and his perfect humanity. Singular pleasure. Of desiring god that will be satisfied by seeing him. And then a singular purpose. Joining the family business. As it were, god is in. Christ's reconciling all the world to himself all the Creation to himself.

And so ourselves, then Being adopted children of the peace, making god. Has becoming more and more peacemakers ourselves. And, Um, And entering into our singular. Purpose. So, in the first place for seven becoming like god, Blessed, are the merciful? For they shall obtain mercy. Now we have pointed out many times that these who are on the mountain with the lord, Jesus are the ones in whom, he has already done the work of grace to give them faith.

Together them to himself. It is important that we not read. Chapter 5 and verse 7 as teaching us about meriting. Mercy by mercy. Anymore than we read chapter 6 and verse. 12.

Yes. Chapter 6 and verse 12. It is important that we not read chapter 5 and verse 7 and as meriting, mercy by mercy anymore than we read chapter 6 and verse 12. As reading meriting forgiveness by forgiving others. I hope none of you children. Are making that mistake that I made many times.

Having learned to recite the lord's prayer. Without having been taught to pray the way, the lord's prayer teaches us not properly. Anyway, and thinking, That's by forgiving my especially my brothers. Two and a half years, separating, the three of us in total. Uh, that somehow I was meriting that week's worth of forgiveness.

If I could do that week's worth of forgiving, Hopefully, it is quite obvious that, that is not how we are forgiven. In the lord's prayer and Matthew 6, verse 12. And I hope then that it is also obvious to you that when he says blessed are the merciful For they shall obtain mercy.

It's not talking about merit, he's talking about grace. Using the same word in those two ways is intended to encourage us. Not about the fact of our mercy. Which is sometimes difficult to ascertain at all. When we're honest with ourselves and certainly not about the quality of our mercy because what mercy the believer does have and show towards others is mixed in so much with that which remains from our former nature and our former self.

So not the fact of our mercy or the quality of our mercy but the source Of our mercy. Think about, who this merciful person is, by the time we get to verse 7. Someone who's bankrupt. He is spiritually bankrupt in the first Beatitude And he has great grief over his, not just the remaining sinfulness in the creation.

But especially the remaining sinfulness that is in himself and he is lowly and humiliated before, god and men, and he is not self-satisfied, but he's hungry and thirsty for righteousness. The blessed man of the first four beatitudes does not come into the attitude. Number five and saying, yeah, I sure have merciful.

I'm ready to be blessed for our merciful. I am Now the the blessed man in the fifth be attitude. When he finds actual mercy in his heart, Knows it couldn't. Have come from him. It's like, When? Uh, your many children have had other many children. In the home with them because family was receiving family in hospitality and Uh, your Uh, you're picking up afterward and some Article of clothing and often shoes, it's amazing.

How you could take a child to a home and shoes and they come unbarefoot or toy or something, or whatever it is. The object is for into the house. You find it there and you say that could not have come from our family. Well, that's How the believer feels and responds to the mercy.

That he finds in his heart. Because, This did not come from me. This can only be here. By the merciful saving gracious. Work of the living god. Even like the hunger and the meekness and the morning. And the poverty of spirit, and the previous ones are also gifts of god.

So, being genuinely merciful comes only by grace. And so, last you Here, or read this. This part of god's word and think that, There's going to be a point at which you are impressed by how great your genuine mercy is Uh, you may end up impressed. By what you are calling mercy in yourself.

But that is not the blessedness. That is being described in matthew 5. Someone who is self-impressed about their mercy. Is neither impressive nor merciful? That is. That is a something that comes from the flesh. But one wonderful thing about, You being merciful at all then and being grateful. That there's actually this work of the spirit that has been discovered to you.

You find the fruit of love and the fruit of patience and the fruit of kindness and the fruit of gentleness and suddenly in the tangled over mess. Of the underbrush. That is your heart, you think? There's a grace vine in there. I have been in grafted into christ. There's a lot to be weeded.

There's a lot to be cut off. But praise god, i'm alive. And his spirit. Is bearing. The fruit. Of christ. And in this case, the fruit of mercy and this means you have been shown mercy in the first place. Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. It's it's future tense.

We've mentioned that several times less few weeks. Especially since we had a present tense and verse 3. There's is the kingdom already but it's future tense after that. A shall obtained mercy, but it won't be the first mercy we've obtained. Will it? The fact that we're merciful at all, means we have obtained mercy God himself became a man.

And lived and obeyed perfectly in our place. And died. Atoningly in our place and rose again with a power that has not just for himself, but that is especially for us. A resurrection powered by which we walk in newness of life and that's where the mercy came from. And you bless God that you have been forgiven and that you have been counted righteous in jesus.

And that you have been adopted in the lord. Jesus. And have been set apart from the world and cold. A saint not only outwardly as a member of his church or a holy one but even inwardly. As the holy spirit has come. To dwell in your heart. Who is the one who's producing this part?

You have been shunned mercy. And you are being shown mercy. Because it's not like you can begin by grace and and then Proceed independently. No, the fact that i'm still showing mercy means the spirit is still applying Christ to me and working out the life and character of christ.

In me. This children, this is The, the thing that really excites your parents about godliness when we see it in you, It's not so much that it's much more pleasant to live with a godly child. Although it is. To a great extent. We're still sinners. So sometimes it's unpleasant because godliness doesn't always make a center.

Feel good about you just wait until next week's passage But when we see the lord, Teaching, you not just The her badger sinus. So that you you learn at least to do the Um, To have the right view of your center at least, to imitate to write view of your set.

By mourning over and grieving over. But when we see comfort in christ satisfaction in christ, come out of your heart. And when we see Little evidences. Of the grace vine. And the grace fruit. We rejoice over where that is coming. From. And every one of us should do that with ourselves.

We should conclude not only have i been shown mercy, but i'm being shun mercy. But even that is not the blessedness of verse 7. The blessingness of verse 7 is the future. Blessedness

They shall. Obtain. Mercy. That when You are. Called from this world from this life. And you don't know when that is.

None of us know. We want to be in christ before that day comes. We want to have been brought to faith in jesus. We want to be those who in addition to everything that has been coming out of us. That is from our former nature. There's that mercy that is coming from christ.

Because on that day, when you are called from this world, if you belong to jesus christ, It's not just that, you'll be shown mercy. That you will be perfected into the image of christ. And you will immediately. Being absent from the body. Enter his presence. And even that is not the end or the greatest.

Of the mercies. From the last, you will be resurrected. And then there'll be a judgment. And at the judgment, there will be all those Who did not obey. Who did not glorify God, who did not obey the gospel? And they are without christ at the judgment and they will receive no mercy.

They will be cast into the lake of fire that is prepared for the devil in his angels. But on that day, If you're in christ, when you left this life. You'll be resurrected with a glorious body, like his And you will be owned and vindicated in the judgment. God will declare you his child.

God will declare his pleasure with you. Just, Just the last chapter we heard. Or two chapters ago rather. We heard the lord announced from heaven, about the lord jesus. This is my beloved son with him. I am. Well, pleased. Every one of us. Gets an announcement like that or at least of indication like that and the last day if we are in christ jesus This one is one of the beloved children.

And with us, the lord is well pleased indeed. He will reward. Our good works on that day. Good works that we're not unmixed with sin. Good works that we're not. Of a quality that is meritorious. Good works. That we're not even from ourselves. But the reward is of grace.

This is the the great motivation for the believer. When he thinks about god rewarding the the good works of a believer according to the deeds that are done in the body. According to the deeds, but not upon the merit of the deeds. Why? Because it's upon the merits of christ.

Those who are in darkness, hate the light because their deeds are evil, says john 3. But the parallel is those, who Who are righteous. Love the light. Why? Because the light reveals that their deeds are done in god. And this is what the lord rewards. He rewards according to his son.

It is a reward that is according to grace. We will obtain mercy. If the work has begun in us, To begin making us to be like god. Blessed, are the merciful for they shall obtain? Mercy. Blessed are the pure and heart for they shall see god.

Now, it is important that we remember in verse 8, That you have just one nature at a time. For even if we were so arrogant as to read verse 8, or verse 7 and think, Uh, yup. That's me. I'm merciful. Which of you would be so, Haughty, so proud.

So arrogant before god As to claim that you are pure in heart. The heart is the hidden place. We're only god can see. When we hear blessed are the pure and heart. We realize that we are thinking about something now and hearing about something now that is before the face of the living, god that no one else.

Can see. And which of us would read verse 8 and say, That's me. I'm pure and heart. Well, i have

Wouldn't say led you astray. But i hope some of you Have recognized, what was going on and said, I would say that. Because i'm in jesus. And there is a lot left in me. That is not pure in heart. But that which is in me from christ. Is pure in heart.

This is what's exciting in the battle. As you kill that, which is left from your former nature as you are a child of god and led by the spirit of god. You realize that that which is from christ in, you is Actually perfect and it will last forever. It's not like, The, the fruit of our labor in the world, You know, we want to be a blessing in the world.

We want to image god, we want to be peacemakers. We want to be good stewards. We want to be evangelists we want to be. Well, that last one. Is eternal. But a lot of that. Does not have final and full outcome. You know i planted fruit trees in iowa.

That, with my children, as As i hope that. Uh, one day. I and my grown children would enjoy fellowship while my grandchildren climbed in the trees and plucked the fruit. And then the lord called us elsewhere, and we sold the house. And the person who bought the house, valued a lawn And out, came the trees.

But the work that god does in the believer in christ, Is eternal. Blessed are the pure and heart and none of us look at ourselves as a whole. With all of the remaining sin with all of that which is still there from our former nature and say i'm pure and haunt But here, the holy spirit teaches you To see that which has been priced.

And to say that is pure, and that is righteous. And if anyone is in christ, new creation has already come and that will be everlasting. If you like working on things that last some of you do here craftsmen and You want to build things, right? And build things to last and praise god.

You want to build something that lasts? Role by the grace and the knowledge. Of our lord jesus christ. You know, that comes after at the end of second Peter. He's talking about the one thing that lasts. When all the fire has come, The new heavens and the new earth of common, which righteousness Dwells.

This is not just purity of lips. Impurity of hands. It's purity of heart and it's not just cleansed of filthiness. Of course, to be pure of heart. You don't want to desire. Anything that is against god cleanses to filthiness. But it's also cleansed of any competition. It's your pure and heart.

You don't desire anything apart from god. You desire him. First, most of all. And we would know that already if we understood or remembered that, the word purity doesn't just mean clean. Although, that's the basic idea of the word here is is cleansed But that the word pure means single-minded unmixed.

But we can also see it because of the blessing at the in the second part of the verse. For they shall see god. Blessed, are those? Who are cleansed from all of the competing interests and desires that asap has In the first half of Psalm 73. That led to him being emitted of heart that led to him being a beast towards god.

And then what happens, he comes into God's holiness. I think psalm 73 most of our endless personal translated sanctuary and many of us. I think we read it in terms of worship and especially public worship. And that is the great place in which he displays to us as holiness.

But in the psalm itself, he comes into god's holiness. He sees that god is the purpose of everything that god is the glory of everything. God becomes his great desire. He considers the

wicked who a second to go, he was envying and he says, they're in slippery places. They're going to be destroyed all at once, they don't have god.

And having god is the great thing. And then he considers himself newly. And he says, nevertheless i am continually with you. That's the purity of heart. The desire to know god in all our paths. You know, many of you memorize trust in the lord, with all your heart. Um, Lean not all your own understanding and all your ways.

And then, i learned growing up acknowledging, right? But it's in all your way is no hint. Have that single-mindedness. Of knowing god. And and having god depending upon god delighting, and god be devoted to god. And he will make your path straight. And they're not going to be pads straight to the right career or pads straight to find the right wife or bad straight to move to the right place or paths straight to pick the right school or passed.

I mean, Those are all maybe subsidiary things. But the straight path there in proverbs 3. This is a path to the full knowledge of god, and that's the blessing that corresponds. To the new character that we have from christ here. Blessed are the pure and heart. For they shall see.

God. Some of you. Who have done a little bit of reading say, well, that's the beatific vision. Well yes, that's true. Knowing that god himself is greater than better than all of his creatures. And that the whole purpose of all of these created things. Is to know him and glorify him and enjoy him.

The whole purpose of this created thing, right? For each of you. Well, we shouldn't surprise us. That in the Beatitudes, we find. The beatific vision. Blessed are the pure and heart for they shall see god. Now this doesn't mean we're sinless. In fact, it means that we confess and acknowledge the remaining sin because it's god, who must cleanse us from it?

Right. Take your first, john three and make sure you include first john one. If we confess our sin, he is faithful and just To forgive us our sins and To cleanse us to purify us. From all unrighteousness, but take your first john one. And make sure you include your first john free.

That as a believer more and more you practice righteousness, why? Because that, which is born in you birth in you, begotten in you, from the lord, jesus christ, cannot sin. The new nature of a believer cannot sin. That's why your weapons free. On any sinfulness or sin that you find left in your heart and yourself in your speech in your life.

Because, you know, it's not from your new nature. You can identify the enemy. Every thought you have children every word that comes out of your mouth. Every desire. If it is not righteous, it's not from christ, kill it. But that, which is in you. Is the seed of god.

First. John three says. And it will surely grow. And it is surely alive. And all of that which is righteous and true, you feed it upon the word of god. You give it the breath of prayer crying of calling upon the name of god. You water it and the means of grace.

The spirit uses. To apply the life of christ to you.

Blast or the pure and heart. For they shall see god. In that moment, when Your purity of heart will be completed. It will also be immediately an entirely satisfied. It's one of the things that bothers us, isn't it? How? Little, our purity of heart is. By comparison, to all of the Cleansing that still needs to be done of that, which is from our former nature.

But none of you will enter the presence of the lord jesus. Without having your delight in him. Perfected first. And none of you will have your delighting him. Perfect it Without immediately entering his presence.

Blessed or the merciful blessed to the pure and heart. Blessed to the peacemakers. For those shall be called sons of god. A believer in this world becomes more and more a peacemaker. And he, it really is just a noun in which it takes the word for making, and he takes the word for peace and smashes them together.

It looks similar in in the original, is it As it does in english. We have a piece making god, we have a father who while we were still sinners, gave his son to die for us. If we have christ, we have peace with god because god has done for that, the lord jesus.

There's a piece making sun. Who has not only reconciled us to god and himself ephesians 2, but reconciles us to one another. He breaks down the middle wall of separation. This is why. My believers are to have, not just peace with god, but peace with one another and The spirit.

Produces in us again, the fruit of peace. You see now, and Uh the fifth sixth and seventh beatitude for seven verse eight and nine. The fruit of this period is love. The fruit of the spirit is joy. The fruit of the spirit is peace. We have a piece making god who's displayed himself, most of all in the sun.

This means not only that we love to enjoy our new peace with god. Where we seek to grow by the grace, and the knowledge of our lord jesus christ, where we work out. Our own salvation because he works in us and the one who began the work in us, will bring it to completion.

But we also seek to enjoy our peace with one another. And so end of ephesians 4 and beginning of ephesians 5 and middle of colossians 3, And, We're not about the time that. That most of us usually start wilting. We might go into this passages and meditate upon applying each of us applying the piece that we have with christ.

With peace with others. And probably most of you maybe every one of, you know, the first place that you need to apply that. In your marriage. With your children. With your siblings. How happy our homes would be? If we were patient and gentle and they seem the best held no grudges and weren't better.

And put away all those things and walked in love and forgiveness.

Well, that is what the lord. Makes us to be more and more. If we are, His children. Blessed are The peacemakers. This isn't by the way, compromising. Truth or righteousness. Because god is the great peacemaker. And Um, lack of hostility. Among the wicked is not the presence of peace.

Peacemaking is first with god vertically. And only then, Horizontally. But we are. Being conformed to christ. And yes, we're called children of god already. Behold the love of the lord. Well, behold the love that god has shun us That we should be called children of god, and that is what we are.

But what we shall be has not yet appeared. There is a revealing of the sons of god that doesn't come until the redemption of our bodies. Middle of ramens aid teaches us. And so, one of the things that we pursue, Is this peace making with one another? When he appears we'll be liking, we'll see him as he is and those who helped us.

What do they do? And purify. Themselves. Even as he is pure. And one day, That likeness unto christ will be so great. We will be have been so perfectly conformed to him. That. Romans 8:29 will be fulfilled and he will be the firstborn among many brothers. And the way that each of us interacts with every other one of us, Would make even a holy angel, say You are just like the sun.

You know, though there is only one begotten son. Those who have begun to be peacemakers. Will be perfected. And they will be called. Sons of god. So believers are blessed already. If you are one. Do not be discouraged over the smallness. Of what his grace has thus far produced.

Be encouraged by the reality of it and the source of it in christ. Resolve. To kill. All that remains all. That is not of him. Continued to. Recognize the bankruptcy of your spirit continue to grieve over your sin. To be humbled before the lord. But to not be discouraged.

Blessed, are you? Blessed, are you? Already. And perfectly blessed. You will be.

But if there is no evidence at all, Then do not be satisfied with the title. Saint. Which is the same as the title church member. But do not be satisfied with mere titles. Ask the lord. For these evidences. That look at how you are now. Poverty of spirit morning, humility hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Ask the lord for these evidences that speak to what you will be forever. Oh, lord, grant the that your spirit would produce in me. Mercy, that i would see the character of jesus. Coming out of me, that belongs only to those who are already perfectly righteous in jesus. Completely justified in jesus.

Ask him to produce single-minded desire for him. Ask him to produce a desire. To see god and man reconciled. And man and man reconciled. But if you are a believer, you're blessed already. Rejoice. Over the blessed. Perfection of that blessing, that is short to come. Oh man, let's pray.

Father, thank you. Not only forgiving yourself to us and your son. But taking us to yourself as sons and him. And thank you that, because We are children. You have sent the spirit of your son into our hearts, crying above a father, And thank you that he your spirit.

Works out the character of your son. In our life and in our heart. And we pray that you would. Continue this work. That you shall surely complete. And we pray that you would give us to be able to see some of the fruit of it. That we might marvel.

At the blessing that has come to us by your grace in christ. In his name, we ask it. Amen.