Allen Harris May 28, 2006

The Gospel of Matthew #30

Sermon on the Mount: How to Be Happy

#4: HAPPY ARE THE MERCIFUL

Matthew 5:7

We live in a day when revenge us IN!

I. How mercy fits in the flow

#1 & 2: nature of repentance: 1. Admit sin & need

2. Grieve sin & need

#3: immediate change in heart: Gentle, not demanding Toward God → toward others

#4: overall change of heart at root: new hunger for righteousness

#5-7: 3 particulars of that hunger for righteousness:

#5: Merciful

#6: Purity

#7: Peacemaker

II. The expression of this mercy

A. Toward those who have wronged me

Not revenge but love

Eg: Jesus on cross: Luke 23:34

B. Toward the needy in my path

Not ignore but love

Eg: Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37

III. The Gospel Promise: mercy past, present, future
I cannot return mercy for evil, or show compassion which costs me unless Christ's mercy to me has transformed my heart. Eph 2:3-6 P
I need it to transform my heart every day! Heb 4:16 P Cf. James 2:10-13
It is my hope of His mercy in the Day of Judgment that transforms me. **Matt 5:7** *F
So only those who will obtain mercy will be merciful. It is a basic mark of Jesus' disciples (cf. 6:12, 14-5; 18:21-35)