

THE BEATITUDES: BLESSED ARE... PART TWO

MATTHEW 5:5-7

Let your tears fall because of sin; but, at the same time, let the eye of faith steadily behold the Son of man lifted up, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, that those who are bitten by the old serpent may look unto Jesus and live. Our sinnership is that emptiness into which the Lord pours his mercy.

Charles Spurgeon

Additional text: Psalm 37

I. Blessing in Meekness

II. Blessing in Wanting

III. Blessing in Mercy

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. Is there, or was there, a favorite blessing said over meals in your family? If so, what was it?

Into the Bible

2. A paradox is a statement that contains something that seems to be a contradiction, but that can be explained so the two parts actually agree. Many point to the Beatitudes as examples of paradoxes in Jesus' teaching. At the very least, the contrasts that are presented in them are jarring reminders that Kingdom principles run counter to those of this world. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. How does Paul expand Jesus's teaching on meekness to show how the meek inherit the earth?

3. Isaiah 49:10 is a promise similar to the blessing on those who hunger and thirst for righteousness in Matthew 5:6. Skim through Isaiah 49 and write down some of the promises of blessing. How do these blessings serve as examples of the "now" and the "not yet" nature of the kingdom that Christ is describing?

Application

4. Kingdom living is full of what we have seen as the contrast between the “now” and the “not yet”—things that apply currently to us and things that will only be accomplished when the King returns. Most of the Beatitudes end with “for they will...” but verses 3 and 10 put possession of the kingdom in the present tense. To whom is each promise given? How would each promise apply to our lives as subjects of the kingdom of God?

5. Jesus tells a parable about a servant with a great debt in Matthew 18:21-35. James 2:13 tells us that “judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.” According to these passages, what is the real reason that we should show mercy to others? Who is there in your life that you should be showing greater mercy to?

For Families

6. Ask your children why they think God is so willing to show mercy to *His* children. Talk about how that relates to showing mercy to each other in your family.