

I need to look at you with the understanding that God is at work in you and your circumstances – we are all works in progress.

Clement of Alexandria: “The true Christian practices being God toward other Christians.”

B. Obtain Mercy - Receivers of mercy are those who are givers of mercy. The ones who are demonstrating mercy are the ones who are continually being mercied.

The Golden Rule:

*Matthew 7:12 NKJV - Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

*Luke 6:38 NKJV - Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.*

1. We obtain from others what we give to our covenant brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. We obtain from ourselves what we give to our covenant brothers and sisters in Christ.
3. We obtain from God what we give to our covenant brothers and sisters.

*Matthew 6:14-15 NKJV - (14) For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (15) But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

As Christians we are a forgiven-forgiving covenant people.

# THE BEATITUDES

## Part 3 – The Hungry & The Merciful

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### THE BEATITUDES

*Matthew 5:3-10 NKJV - (3) "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (4) Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (5) Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (6) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. (7) Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. (8) Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (9) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (10) Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

### SEVEN QUALITIES OF BLESSEDNESS

#### 1. Poor in Spirit - Kingdom of Heaven

The poor in spirit are those who realize their own lack of righteousness and put their whole trust in God.

#### 2. Mourners - Comforted

Mourners are those who are genuinely sorry for their sins and ache to be free from them.

#### 3. Meek – Inherit the Earth

Meekness involves recognizing, being remorseful, and repenting, which allows us to become a submissive child of God.

#### 4. Hungry & Thirsty – Will be Filled

This beatitude is about wanting.

A. Hungry & Thirsty

Blessed is the person who longs for righteousness like a starving person longs for food or a person dying from thirst longs for water.

B. Righteousness- Dikaiousune (Greek)

Justice, equity, fairness, uprightness. It does not mean to prove right. It does not mean that God makes me right. It does mean that God accepts, treats, and declares me to be in a right relationship with Him.

C. Filled - Chortazesthai (Greek)

For they shall be being filled. It means to stuff a person so full that he does not need anything else.

The more you hunger, the more you are filled, the more you are filled, the more you hunger. It is the hunger itself that fills and the fullness that hungers.

*Matthew 6:33 NKJV - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

**5. Merciful - Obtain Mercy**

*Matthew 5:7 NKJV - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*

A. Mercy

Eleeo/Eleemes (Greek) - Related to or dependent on charity. Synonyms would be giving and benevolent.

Chesed/Hasidim (Hebrew) - It is the Hebrew word used in the Old Testament for covenant. When it is used it refers to one kind of mercy - the mercy of God toward Israel with whom He made a covenant.

This beatitude is directed toward those who are in covenant with God...it's our relationship toward fellow believers.

To be merciful is to have the same covenant attitude toward other people with whom we are in covenant that God has toward them.

1. We must learn to think about others in covenant the same way God thinks about them.

*I Corinthians 3:16 NKJV- Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

When I think of you I need to see you as the person in whom the very God of the universe lives - you are set apart as His sanctuary.

2. We must learn to feel about others in covenant the same way God feels about them.

*Jeremiah 31:3 NKJV - The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*

I need to love you with a love that never gives up, the same way that God never gives up on me.

3. We must learn to behave toward others in the body the way God behaves toward them.

*Romans 8:28 NKJV - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*