

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 5-7

The Journey Up
Matthew 5:7-10

Matthew 5:7-10

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The second group of four

- The first four are the journey down in humility and the second four are the journey up into Christlikeness.
- The first four empty of our hearts of what is false, and the second four fill our hearts of what is true.
- The first four focus more on attitudes and the second four focus more on actions.

The Example of the Prodigal

- **Poor in spirit – realized his error**
- **Mourning – came home in grief**
- **Meekness – admitted his unworthiness**
- **Hunger and thirst - wanted the food of his father's house**

Four Traits of Christlikeness

- What are these four traits on the journey up into Christlikeness?
- Merciful
- Pure in heart
- Peacemakers
- Persecuted for righteousness

1. Blessed are the merciful

- God's mercy is both passive and active – patience with people and reaching out to others
- “The compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin” (Exodus 34:6-7).
- “Receive mercy” – “To the merciful you will show yourself merciful” (Psalm 18:25).

2. Blessed are the pure in heart

- The purity of a grace-cleansed heart – applied the blood of Christ to every failure of their life.
- “See God” – Elicott’s Commentary: “Purity of heart, so far as it exists, brings with it the power of seeing more than others see in all through which God reveals Himself – the beauty of nature, the inward light, the moral order of the world, the written word, the life and teaching of Christ.”

Seeing God through Christ

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world...I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them” (John 17:24,26).

3. Blessed are the peacemakers

- All the beatitudes are revealed in this one
- “Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” – Paul’s most common greeting
- Declaring the peace with God through Christ
- Helping receive inner peace by the Spirit
- Making peace between people

Prayer of Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of
Thy peace. Where there is hatred
let me sow love.

Where there is injury pardon.

Where there is doubt faith.

Where there is despair hope.

Where there is darkness light.

Where there is sadness joy.

O Divine Master grant that I may
not so much seek

To be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to
understand,

To be loved as to love,

For it is in giving that we receive.

It is in pardoning that we are
pardoned.

It is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.

Peace with God through Christ

**“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”
(Rom. 5:1)**

“We all ... were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved” (Eph. 2:3-5)

Peace with ourselves in Christ

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 15:13).

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...” (Gal. 5:22)

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33)

Peace with others by Christ

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all” (Rom. 12:18).

“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (James 3:17-18).

4. Persecuted for righteousness

- **“A Christian is a cross-bearer” Martin Luther**
- **“Theirs is the kingdom of heaven” – that is enough**
- **“Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12).**
- **“Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also” (John 15:20).**

William Borden, born 1887



- Heir of Borden Estate
- Organized Prayer groups at Yale, 1905-09
- Surrendered to be a missionary to Muslims in China
- Died in Egypt, 25 years old
- “No reserves. No retreats. No regrets.”