

The Sermon on the Mount
(Lesson 2)

Introduction:

1. To help us in "*understanding what the will of the Lord is*" (Ephesians 5:17) we are studying the Lord's Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).
2. In Matthew 5:6-9 Jesus mentioned 4 special blessings: being filled with righteousness, obtaining mercy, seeing God, and being called children of God.
3. He also showed in these Beatitudes how we are able to enjoy these blessings.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.6) "*BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH DO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS*"
 - A. Some important terms must be understood.
 1. Hunger: to crave something, to seek it with eager desire
 2. Thirst: to eagerly long for something, to painfully feel the need of it
 3. Righteousness: things that are right, whatever conforms to God's revealed will
 - a. God's righteousness is revealed in the Bible (Romans 1:16-17).
 - b. A person who does righteousness is righteous (1 John 3:7).
 - B. Looking at this matter further . . .
 1. Food and water are 2 of our basic needs.
 - a. Without food we can live a while, but eventually death will occur.
 - b. Without water we will not last very long.
 - c. As basic as these needs are, a full person has no need to eat and drink.
 - d. A full person is satisfied until he becomes hungry again.
 2. One of our basic spiritual needs is "*righteousness*" -- without it we will die spiritually.
 - a. To hunger and thirst after righteousness we must realize that we have none on our own (Romans 3:10 -- "*There is none righteous, no, not one*").
 - b. Realizing that we need righteousness to sustain us, we must develop a hunger and thirst for it.
 - c. Jesus touched on this in Matthew 6:33, and we need to follow His example (John 4:34).
 - C. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness enjoy a great blessing -- "*they shall be filled.*"
 - II. (vs.7) "*BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL*"
 - A. The Lord commands us to be merciful (Luke 6:36).
 - B. Since being merciful is such an important matter we need to understand what it means.
 1. Mercy is being compassionate toward the less fortunate (ex. -- the Good Samaritan).
 2. Mercy is also being compassionate toward sinners (ex. -- the prodigal son's father).
 - C. Those who are merciful enjoy a great blessing -- "*they shall obtain mercy.*"
 1. The law of sowing and reaping applies to being merciful (Galatians 6:7).
 2. If we want to receive God's mercy we must be merciful ourselves.
 - III. (vs.8) "*BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART*"
 - A. It is essential that we be pure in heart because the condition of our hearts will determine what we do and say (Luke 6:45).
 - B. How to have a pure heart:
 1. It must be cleansed by the Lord's blood.
 2. It must be kept pure by thinking on the right things (Proverbs 23:7; Philippians 4:8).
 - C. Those who are pure in heart enjoy a great blessing -- "*they shall see God.*"
 - IV. (vs.9) "*BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS*"
 - A. The Bible has much to say about peace and making peace (Romans 12:18; 14:19).
 - B. The Bible warns against the opposite of making peace (Galatians 5:15).
 - C. When we make peace we are being like the Lord who is the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).
 - D. Peacemakers enjoy a great blessing -- "*they shall be called the children of God.*"
 1. Making peace sometimes requires sacrifice (Isaac -- Genesis 26:17-22).
 2. Being called a child of God is worth whatever sacrifice is necessary.