

Readings

Scripture

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive 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."
- Matthew 5:6-9 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 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 3:13-18 (*English Standard Version*)

"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

- Micah 6:6-8 (*English Standard Version*)

Sermon Outline

Practicing God's Blessing
Matthew 5:6-9

And His Disciples Came to Him
Brad Anderson

God continues to satisfy our hunger and thirst for righteousness as we put into practice the blessings that come from Him... (Matthew 5:6)

How does a deep awareness of our need cause us to practice the blessings of God?

A deep awareness of our spiritual poverty causes us to view others differently... (Matthew 5:3, 7)

A deep sense of heartache toward our sin causes us to pursue a life of purity... (Matthew 5:4, 8)

A profound gentleness and the self-control that such gentleness requires causes us to become peacemakers... (Matthew 5:5, 9)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Read Matthew 5:2-9. How is verse 6 now seen to relate to verses 7-9? Use the outline above to guide your response.
- How does a poverty of spirit relate to being merciful? Can you think of a parable or story from the Bible that could illustrate this connection?
- How does mourning over sin relate to a pure heart? Can you think of a parable or story from the Bible that could illustrate this connection?
- How does meekness, or gentleness, or humility relate to becoming a peacemaker? Can you think of a parable or story from the Bible that could illustrate this connection? Perhaps consider the Father in the Prodigal Son or Jesus as he interacts with the Rich Young Ruler.
- Make a case for the interrelationship of the Beatitudes using your answers to the preceding questions.
- Micah 6:6-8 is a summary of God's requirement for mankind and a picture of the heart's dialogue. What do these verses say about who and what is good? In the doing of justice, in the practice of mercy, in the demeanor of humility, how is God at work in and through our lives to love and to be loved? How do these verses relate to the Beatitudes and to the Sermon on the Mount in general?