

Blessed are the Merciful/Pure in Heart

Trinity Church Sermon | 7.25.21 | Matthew 5:7-8

Text

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*

-Matthew 5:7-8

Main Points

- Mercy only carries weight, if we first fight for justice
- Systems must fight for justice, while individuals are eager to offer mercy
- The world teaches us to display dominance – but for what gain? Which is more impressive – succumbing to selfishness, or denying it?
- Pure in heart means a heart that is not poisoned with selfishness.
- Those who have a pure heart truly see others for who they are, not what they can do for us. When you see others for who they are, you see pure reflections of the image of God.
- Verse 8 isn't just meaning in eternity. It truly means you will see God here on earth.
- To see God means to experience His presence, but also to physically see Him with your own eyes.

Word Studies

Merciful:

ἐλεήμων [eleēmōn], el-eh-ay'-mone; from [G1653](#); compassionate (actively):—merciful.

Pure:

καθαρός [katharós], kath-ar-os'; of uncertain affinity; clean (literally or figuratively):—clean, clear, pure.

- clean, pure
 - physically
 - purified by fire
 - in a similitude, like a vine cleansed by pruning and so fitted to bear fruit
 - in a levitical sense
 - clean, the use of which is not forbidden, imparts no uncleanness
 - ethically
 - free from corrupt desire, from sin and guilt
 - free from every admixture of what is false, sincere genuine
 - blameless, innocent



- unstained with the guilt of anything

Heart:

καρδία [kardía], kar-dee'-ah; prolonged from a primary kár kár (Latin cor, "heart"); the heart, i.e. (figuratively) the thoughts or feelings (mind); also (by analogy) the middle:—(† broken-)heart(-ed).

- the heart
 - that organ in the animal body which is the centre of the circulation of the blood, and hence was regarded as the seat of physical life
 - denotes the centre of all physical and spiritual life
 - the vigour and sense of physical life
 - the centre and seat of spiritual life
 - the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavours
 - of the understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence
 - of the will and character
 - of the soul so far as it is affected and stirred in a bad way or good, or of the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions
 - of the middle or central or inmost part of anything, even though inanimate

See:

ὁράω **horáō**, hor-ah'-o; properly, to stare at (compare [G3700](#)), i.e. (by implication) to discern clearly (physically or mentally); by extension, to attend to; by Hebraism, to experience; passively, to appear:—behold, perceive, see, take heed.

- to see with the eyes
- to see with the mind, to perceive, know
- to see, i.e. become acquainted with by experience, to experience
- to see, to look to
 - to take heed, beware
 - to care for, pay heed to
- I was seen, showed myself, appeared

Working Outline

Intro

Good Morning! It's so great to be here with you all! I know we say that every week, but forreal – I LOVE that I get to be here with you all this morning! I love being a part of the Trinity Family, and getting to see every person at both campuses on the same morning is a dream! Also, I love that the Trinity Family not only trusts me to speak, but encourages more of our staff to get up here and deliver a word from the Lord every year! It's a huge honor and blessing to me, and I hope you all have enjoyed this series! This is maybe my 4th or 5th year preaching, and it is absolutely a highlight of my year!

For those of you who don't know me, or maybe you've heard of me, but wasn't sure what I really do – I do exist. My name is Ty Combs, I'm one of our Next-Gen Pastors, along with Pastor Matthew. My family has attended the East Fishers Campus for the past 6 years, so I'm most present out there. A small bit about my family, here's a picture of me, my amazing wife, Kelly, and our incredibly cute baby girl, Eliza Rae. I direct our Student Ministry for all campuses, along with an AMAZING team! Here at NEI you all have Ty & Kenzie Hill, Andy & Marie Williams, Ben Sparrow, and Sunday Nights we have our Trinity Student Ministry service where we have the best Adult Mentors you could ever ask for! Forreal, If you have students in grades 5-8, I need you to know that your kids are so so so loved, cared for, and seen. We are so fortunate here at Trinity to have SO many amazing people that care SO much about the Next Generation of the Church. I have to be honest though, I don't really love the term "Next-Gen" - I know what it means, and it makes sense, but I have to tell you, I've seen first hand countless examples of how our young people – our Jr. Hi and High School students aren't the next generation of the Church – rather they are the current generation that is pushing the Gospel deep into our community with more urgency, clarity, and joy than anybody! I'll say it like this: If I were tasked with changing the world and I could choose 12 people, I too would choose 12 teenagers. Y'all might not know it, but Jesus was a student pastor that retired after just 3 years, and look at what his 12 teenagers have done!

Alright, that's enough about me. You'll get to hear more from our students here in a bit. We're in week 4 of our series "Made for More". This year for this series we're doing a deep study of the Beatitudes. As AJ, Mike Schultz, and Jorge Escalante have all said, the beatitudes aren't just a list of things to make you feel better when you're sad, when you feel like you aren't good at something, or when you feel walked on. That's often how the beatitudes get used. No, the Beatitudes aren't a safety net for when we feel bad. Rather the Beatitudes are more of a syllabus for Jesus's entire time on Earth fulfilling the roles of Prophet, Priest, and especially King. See this is the intro of the Sermon on the Mount. This is Jesus's first big public sermon. Jesus has just stepped into his role as a leader. He's just been baptized and just now has followers. He takes them all to this hill, and he delivers the Sermon on the Mount. He starts this sermon by telling them that if they want to be a part of his Kingdom, these are the standards. This is Jesus

explaining the culture of His Kingdom. We've used this phrase every week, but Jesus is explaining that the culture, the values, the standards of His Kingdom are entirely counter-intuitive to that of Rome. Jesus starts His ministry by explaining that He has come to show an Upside-Down Kingdom.

Today we're going to be talking about 2 Beatitudes: Matthew 5:7-8. The first of these is this:

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
-Matthew 5:7*

All throughout Jr. High, High School, and into college I worked on a huge farm. The Farmer I worked for was an incredible entrepreneur, man of God, and missionary. He utilized and staffed his farm in such a way that it funded his full-time career of being a missionary to Southeast Asia – He would go on multiple trips a year and he would teach pastors there advanced farming techniques to not only sustain their own families, but to increase their demand in the community and to build influence all for the purpose of sharing the Gospel – He is truly an amazing man. He also is had the potential to be one of the most intimidating men of all time. He rarely got mad – but when he did, it was absolutely terrifying.

His youngest daughter was getting married, and moving into a rental home he had owned for a few years. He wanted it to be the best possible first home for his daughter, so we worked a lot one summer to renovate it and fix it up. It was the day of the wedding – no joke. The morning of his daughter's wedding, he and I were at the house putting the finishing touches on the home. I remember vividly we were painting the trim to the front door. We had taken out walls, installed new carpet, new cabinets – the works. Here we were perfecting the smallest details before we went to the ceremony. I was painting the trim, dipping my tiny brush in the paint bucket. It was such small detailed work that we didn't lay down any plastic or anything on the ground. I needed to paint the trim on the inside of the door, so I opened the door a bit. Now something I apparently failed to remember is that doors go all the way to the ground. I also apparently forgot that the paint bucket I was using was on the ground – right behind the door. When I opened the door the entire bucket of white paint got dumped right onto the carpet we had installed just a week or 2 before. The carpet in my boss's daughter's first home – that she was moving into – that day – her wedding day.

I can't even begin to explain the pit in my stomach. The sickness I felt. I was so close to my boss's family, it was a big deal to me that his daughter was getting married, but I could not even pretend to understand the emotions my boss would have that morning – the morning he was about to walk his baby girl down the aisle. And here, that morning one of his 17 year old

workers dumped a whole can of white paint on the brand new carpet right inside the front door. You know how I said he rarely got mad? So rarely. I was terrified – why? Because I knew he would be mad – because he had every right to be mad. I had one job, and I made a completely stupid and lazy mistake. He had every right to yell at me, to explain to me just how much of an idiot I was – he had every right to tell me to just go home and never come back. I knew that’s what was going to happen, because that’s what should have happened.

Now I wish I knew exactly word for word what he said to me, but I don’t. All I know is that he didn’t raise his voice at all. He didn’t accuse me of anything. He didn’t remind me of how stupid of a mistake it was. He didn’t reference anything that had just happened. He didn’t spend any time talking about what happened or what I should have done differently – he only spoke of what we needed to do to fix it, and we did. I was in shock. I was in shock of what I’d done – but even more so, I was in shock of the amount of mercy he had on me. See he had every right to utilize every ounce of his authority over me in that moment. He had every right to give me what I deserved – yet he chose not to. He had every right to display his power and dominance – yet he didn’t. He chose to show mercy.

In Matthew 18, Jesus tells parable to display the very definition of Mercy:

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”^[g]

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold^[h] was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.^[i] He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

-Matthew 18:21-35

My wife and I were talking about this parable and the concept of mercy, and she told me this: **The servant didn't trust Mercy, so he didn't extend it.**

You see, to extend mercy, you have to be okay with the fact that things may not go how you want them to. People may not change. People may not hold up their end of the deal – and that's okay. The world tells us that we need to be the ones in control, that we need to have a plan, and you'll be successful if your plan works out. This often comes out in displays of dominance. Dominant personalities, dominant people often bulldoze their way through conversations, business deals, and relationships. They do this to accomplish their goals on their terms. Jesus tells us in this beatitude that His Kingdom is oh so different. **Jesus tells us that in His Kingdom those who are eager to show mercy to people will be blessed – not those showing dedication to goals.** This is so contrary to how the world operates.

Jesus states clearly that His Kingdom is very different. Jesus does not say “blessed are the dominant, for they will receive what they desire”. Yet, that is how our world seems to operate. If you bulldoze enough, you will get what you want, and getting what you want is the ultimate desire. Jesus tells us differently, both in the beatitudes and in the parable of the selfish servant. He shows us that the Master cares more about the souls of other people, whereas the servant cares more about himself.

Our God is a God of Justice. Read through any story of the Old Testament, God is found punishing people for their sins – people, even cities and entire nations are seen getting what they deserve according to God's Laws. **God is a Just God; simultaneously, Jesus is a merciful Savior.** See Mercy only carries weight if it exists within the realm of justice. If my boss had never gotten mad at anything, his authority would mean little. If the Master in Jesus' Parable had never gotten what was due, his kingdom would have gone bankrupt. We must pursue Justice, and do it with bravery. I'll say it this way: **In the Kingdom of God we simultaneously fight fiercely for Justice, and are eager to extend mercy.**



This takes us to the second Beatitude we'll be looking at today:

*Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*

-Matthew 5:8

A couple of weeks ago I was in Atlantic City, New Jersey with a group of our students on a Mission Trip. We were there helping a couple of non-profit organizations build, plant, and maintain a few urban gardens. These met multiple needs in the community. Firstly, for the locals of Atlantic City, they live in a food desert, meaning though there are multiple 5-star restaurants, there is nowhere to get affordable and healthy food. The organization we helped is certified to accept food stamps in return for fresh locally grown produce! Also, the gardens we helped build are located on the property of a couple of group homes for people with disabilities. We made wheelchair accessible garden beds so residents with disabilities could still be the ones to care for the plants that would go to help fill needs of people in their own communities. It truly is a beautiful system of giving meaning to those who struggle to find purpose, as well as providing food to families who struggle to find that!

I'm going to invite up a few of our students who went on our trip, and they're going to share a bit about their experiences:

Drew- Gratefulness for what we have. The generosity of people we met (specific names)

Iliana – Seeing how lonely some people in the group homes are (Brian), yet how loving and beautiful these people were.

Nate – Seeing people (Paige) literally working in the mud to provide for others, not standing on a stage with lights.

To be honest, before this week, I had an idea of what Jesus meant in this Beatitude “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” I thought it meant if you love God really really well, you'll be with Him in heaven. Like our students shared, we learned a lot on this trip. We learned a lot about the city of Atlantic City, the systems in place, the scenery, the corrupt government, the multi-billion dollar business built on greed, the motels kept in business by human trafficking. But I think we all learned exponentially more by our interactions with a handful of individuals. I'm sure there are people so similar here in our own community, but there's something special about the people you meet on a mission trip. You see on a mission trip, you know the sole reason you are there is to serve other people. You don't go with an agenda of your own, you don't go to build up your own name. You go to truly help other people.



When we met people like (Glen, Brian, Paige), we had no intentions of building ourselves up. We had no intentions of wondering what they could do for us. In our conversations, our interactions, the questions that were asked – there was truly only one goal – to see them for who they are.

These few people had a HUGE impact on our entire team! We heard their stories, we saw the way they care about the least and the lost. We saw their deep longing for community. We saw their incredible generosity. In short, we saw the personality of Jesus in more tangible ways than ever before.

I did some looking, and the Greek words in this beatitude are incredibly insightful. The word for Pure means “Free from sin and corrupt desire” and “Purified by fire, or by pruning”. The word for Heart means “The center of a being – physical, emotional, and mental” The word for See means “To see with the eyes, to see with the mind, to see by experience”

To put all of these together we read this beatitude more accurately as **“Blessed are those whose heart, mind, and soul have been pruned of selfish desires, for they will see God with their own eyes, and experience His presence.”**

I used to think this Beatitude meant if you love God well, you’ll be with Him in heaven, but as our students have just seen first hand, it really means if you see people for who they are, you will see a pure reflection of their Creator. You will see God here and now. You will come into contact with his presence. When you look at people, I mean when you truly see them for who they are, you will see God. All people are created in the image of God, but the worldly kingdom we are born into puts lenses over our eyes and teaches us to see people for what they can do for us. In this beatitude Jesus is telling us that in His Kingdom, we don’t look at people for what they can do for us, but we see them for who they are – a pure reflection of God. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are those whose heart, mind, and soul have been pruned of selfish desires, for they will see God with their own eyes, and experience His presence.”

When you see people for who they are, you will no longer feel obligated to forgive – when you see people for who they are, you will become eager to extend mercy.

In Jesus’s upside down Kingdom, you don’t need to use other people as a stepping stool to see Him. Rather you will find him when you lower yourself to be a pedestal for His people.

Today as we close, I want you to pull out your next steps cards. I want to ask just a couple of questions.

- Where do you typically feel the need to be perceived as dominant? What would happen if you became merciful?
- Is there somebody in your life you refuse to forgive? Why? What do you gain by withholding mercy?
- Is there somebody in your life you're using as a stepping stool? Who can you put on a pedestal this week?

Blessed are the Merciful/Pure in Heart

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- **Intro** – Intro myself, love being here – Love Trinity – encouraging
- Name, **Family (picture)**, Role – Attend EF – TSM all-campus – TSM teams
- Next Gen (Current Gen) 12 teens – Jesus was a Youth Pastor
- Beatitudes – wk 4 – Not just there to make us feel better when we're down
- Jesus' Syllabus – first sermon, Displaying Kingly role for 1st time
- **In the Beatitudes, Jesus is setting culture for His Upside-Down Kingdom**
- Today we're looking at Mt. 5:7-8
- **Pt. 1** - **"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."** -Matthew 5:7
- Worked on Farm – Farmer was entrepreneur lol. Missionary full-time – taught farm
- Youngest Daughter getting married – moving into rental home he owned
- Tons of huge renovations, putting final details on morning of wedding
- Painting Trim around front door, paint bucket was inside – spilled over new carpet
- Boss didn't get mad often – I knew he would – he should.
- He didn't – he didn't talk about the past. Only what we needed to do to fix it.
- **He had every right to display his power and dominance – yet he didn't. He chose to show mercy.**
- Jesus tells a parable in Matthew 18 to teach us what mercy is:
- **Matthew 18:21-35**
- The servant didn't **trust** mercy, so he didn't **extend** mercy.
- To extend mercy, we have to be okay with things not going according to our plans
- **The world would have us believe dominance is the most direct path to success.**
- We think bulldozing people, conversations, agendas
- **Jesus tells us that in His Kingdom those who are eager to show mercy to people will be blessed – not those showing dedication to goals.**
- Our God is a God of Justice – see OT – people, families, cities, nations getting deserved
- **God is a Just God; simultaneously, Jesus is a merciful Savior.**
- **Mercy only carries weight within the realm of Justice**
- In Parable, the merciful master was still pursuing what was due – what was right.
- **When justice is expected, mercy introduces us to grace ; when justice is not expected, mercy begs to be abused.**
- In my story, if my boss had never gotten mad, or expected excellence, his mercy wouldn't have meant anything – I would've expected it, and selfishly abused it.
- **In the Kingdom of God we simultaneously fight fiercely for Justice, and are eager to extend mercy.**
- **Pt. 2** – **"Blessed are the Pure in Heart, for they will see God."** -Matthew 5:8
- Intro NJ Trip – **TRIP PICTURES**
- Locals – Food Desert amidst 5 star restaurants – gardens for affordable produce

- Wheel-chair accessible for group homes – giving both purpose and food to locals

- **Invite up students**

- **Drew Berry, Iliana Williams, Nate Colaw**

- Honestly, before this trip, I thought I knew what this beatitude meant – Love God = heaven
- Learned a lot on this trip – AC, billions built on greed – motels – corrupt gov. allowing it all
- Learned most from interactions with a few individuals – not unlike people here
- On missions trip, you go with the sole purpose of serving others – selfless
- Meeting people like (Glen, Paige, etc.) we never asked “what can they do for me?”
- Greek Words for verses:
 - **Pure:** “Free from sin and corrupt desire” and “Purified by fire, or by pruning”.
 - **Heart:** “The center of a being – physical, emotional, and mental”
 - **See :** “To see with the eyes, to see with the mind, to see by experience”
- Altogether, we can translate this verse to more accurately mean:
- “Blessed are those whose heart, mind, and soul have been pruned of selfish desires, for they will see God with their own eyes, and experience His presence.”
- I used to think this meant “If you love God really well, you’ll get to see Him in heaven.”
- **Students have shared, Jesus says in His Kingdom, if you look at others without the selfish lenses we are born with, and the world tells us to cherish – if you look at others without thinking of yourself, you will see a pure reflection of their creator – You will see God. You will see God here and now.**
- **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are those whose heart, mind, and soul have been pruned of selfish desires, for they will see God with their own eyes, and experience His presence.”**
- When you see people for who they are, you will no longer feel **obligated to forgive** – when you see people for who they are, you will become **eager to extend mercy**.
- The Merciful Master looked at his servant for who he was, not what he could do for him. My boss on that day looked at me for who I was, he cared more about me than his goals.
- In Jesus’s upside down Kingdom, you don’t need to use other people as a stepping stool to see success. Rather you will find Jesus when you lower yourself to be a pedestal for His people.

Next Steps:

- Where do you typically feel the need to be perceived as dominant? What would happen if you became merciful?
- Is there somebody in your life you refuse to forgive? Why? What do you gain by withholding mercy?
- Is there somebody in your life you’re using as a stepping stool? Who can you put on a pedestal this week?

Ty's Sermon Slides

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- Family Picture
- In the Beatitudes, Jesus is setting culture for His Upside-Down Kingdo
- “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” – Matthew 5:7
- Matthew 18:21-35
- The servant didn't **trust** mercy, so he didn't **extend** mercy.
- The world would have us believe **dominance** is the most direct path to success.
- Jesus tells us that in His Kingdom those who are eager to show **mercy** to **people** will be blessed – not those showing **dedication** to **goals**.
- God is a **Just God**; simultaneously, Jesus is a **merciful Savior**
- When justice is **expected**, mercy introduces us to **grace** ; when justice is **not expected**, mercy begs to be **abused**
- In the Kingdom of God we simultaneously fight **fiercely** for **Justice**, and are **eager** to extend **mercy**.
- Blessed are the Pure in Heart, for they will see God.” -Matthew 5:8
- TRIP PICTURES
- **Pure**: “Free from sin and corrupt desire” and “Purified by fire, or by pruning”.
- **Heart**: “The center of a being – physical, emotional, and mental”
- **See** : “To see with the eyes, to see with the mind, to see by experience”
- “Blessed are those whose heart, mind, and soul have been pruned of selfish desires, for they will see God with their own eyes, and experience His presence.”
- When you see people for who they are, you will no longer feel **obligated to forgive** – when you see people for who they are, you will become **eager to extend mercy**.
- In Jesus's upside down Kingdom, you don't need to use other people as a stepping stool to see success. Rather you will find Jesus when you lower yourself to be a pedestal for His people.