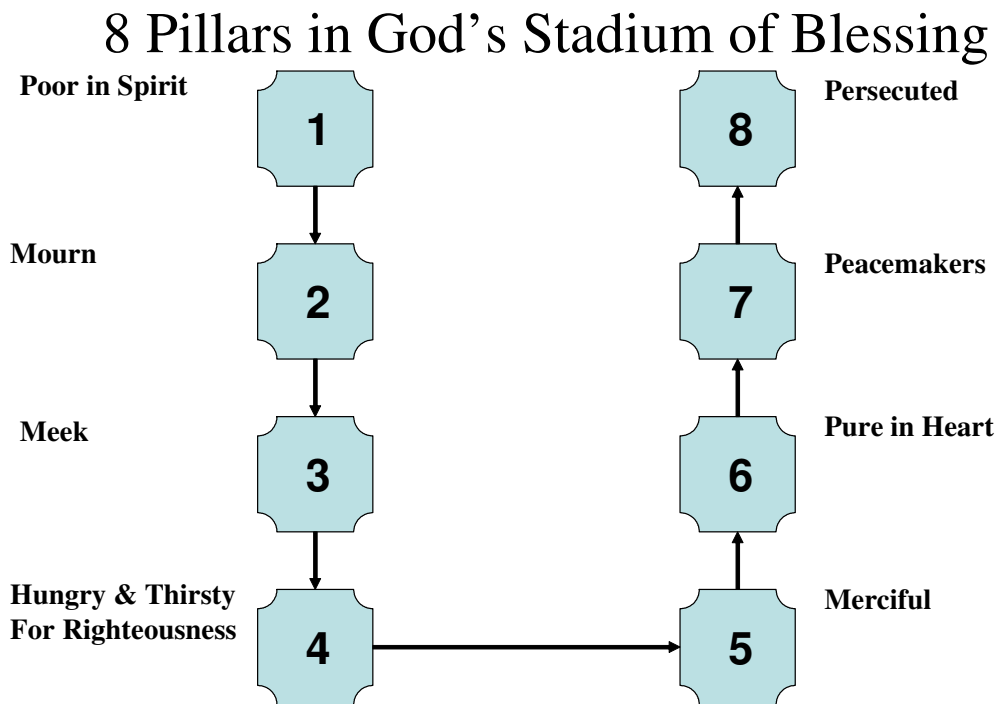


A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR A NEW KINGDOM

The Beatitudes



A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR A NEW KINGDOM

Matthew 5 : 7 – Mercy to the Merciful

Scriptures: Nehemiah 9 : 5 – 37 (A recitation of God's mercy, culminating in v 31, a grand declaration of God's character of mercy); Hosea 2:2-23; Matthew 18 : 21 - 35

**The Beatitudes are not a map showing us how to be saved.
They are a mirror reflecting the character of the truly saved.**

Beatitudes 1 – 3 reveal the truth about us. They describe a heart exercised by the awakening of the Holy Spirit, a response to the Glory of God.

Beatitudes 4 – 5 deal with the disposition of disciples. They describe the subsequent fruit, the effect and evidence of one awakened by the Holy Spirit.

I express my meekness in this fundamental way – In hungering and thirsting for righteousness, I show mercy, reflecting God's mercy to me.

What is Mercy?

The Shorter Oxford Dictionary defines it as “the forbearance and compassion shown by one person to another who is in his power and who has no claim to receive kindness.”

Biblically, it is more than emotion (fickle!), rather an attitude leading to action.

Mercy Reflects God's Image in the Human Race

Humanitarian Mercy is incomplete.

For disciples, there is no tension between humanitarian and Gospel mercy.

It can be ugly when only spiritual, or offered with the wrong attitude.

Is it tough or tender?

Some Practical Pointers:

The Gift of Mercy and the Role of Mercy

"When you bury the mad dog, do not leave the tail sticking out." C.H. Spurgeon

The Reward of Mercy:

The inward benefit - at peace! The burr is gone from the saddle

The social benefit - a kindly character is developed

The spiritual benefit – you share in the joy of the Trinity (Heb 12:2)

Personalize This

Descending – We are emptied of self in Beatitude numbers 1 - 3

Ascending – we are filled with the fullness of God in Beatitude numbers 4 - 7

Blessed! The Merciful

I am willing for God to help me forgive

I will forgive any who have wronged me

I will forgive myself for foolish choices

I will strive to live with a heart at peace, resisting a heart at war

I turn my back on revenge and the desire to get even

REFLECTIONS

MONDAY:

Hosea 2 : 2 - 23

"Mercy" is found in v 19f. Vv 6 –13 tell of mercy in the tough love mode. It is this that gives v 15 meaning – "Achor" (trouble) is a door of hope! Yahweh is your husband! Rejoice in the promises of the passage.

TUESDAY:

Isaiah 63 : 7 - 19

"Kindness" (mentioned twice in v 7) is the Hebrew word for mercy. Reflect on the staggering truth in v 9. V 10 is all too common a response – pray vv n15 – 19 for Honeyridge Church.

WEDNESDAY:

Matthew 18 : 15 - 35

The key to this passage is found in v 35. Reflect on how much God has forgiven you. Discuss the meaning of v 18 and v 19 with others today. (Be sure you arrive at the correct understanding of them!) Is there someone you need to contact?

THURSDAY:***Luke 10 : 25 - 37***

V 27 should never be far from your mind. Who, according to the parable, is your neighbour? V 37 explains what mercy is. Commit yourself to the closing words of Jesus in v 37. Identify a “neighbour” and pray for them and determine on a course of action to live up to your commitment.

FRIDAY:***Mark 10 : 35 - 52***

Greatness lies in being the most merciful servant of all, vv 35 – 45. In contrast to the glory seeking of James and John, Bartimaeus has only one plea: “Mercy!” That cry arrests Jesus. Cry to Him now.

SATURDAY:***2 Corinthians 1 : 3 - 11***

God is the Father of mercies (compassion). All trouble must be used creatively in the light of this scripture – you are being equipped to minister to others. Let this be your aim in present trials. Ask God for the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. (Colossians 1:9-14)