

STUDY QUESTIONS CONT'D

6. What is involved in creating and having a pure heart?
7. Since we all have sin in our life, how can we live according to these beatitudes?

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The word “gospel” means “good news.” The Gospel, or good news, of Jesus Christ is that He did what no one could ever do. You see, God loves us, but ever since Adam and Eve sinned against God, every human being has sinned and therefore cannot come into God’s presence because He is holy and perfect. As much as we try, we cannot bridge the gap to God because of our sinful nature. We can never be good enough to reach God. Good works, religion, philosophy and morality all fall short of God’s perfection.

God loves us so much that He sent His Own Son, Jesus Christ, to bridge the gap (John 3:16). Jesus did what no one else could ever do, because He is both God and human, born to Mary. He took upon Himself the punishment we deserve, dying on the cross in our place. Now, through a relationship with Jesus Christ, we can come before a holy God. That is the good news! We enter a relationship with Jesus by placing our faith and trust in Him and Him alone for our salvation. Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

The good news doesn’t end there. Not only can we have eternal life through Jesus, but we also now can live without being condemned because of sin. Jesus paid the price for our sins, and He lives within those who have placed their trust in Him. In Christ, not only have we secured our future in eternity with God, but we have the Holy Spirit living in us to help us today to live for Christ. For more information on how to know God, check our website at www.gbcmilescity.com.



Grace Bible Church
3505 Stower St.
Miles City, MT 59301
406-232-5787
www.gbcmilescity.com

Small Group Study Guide
Pastor Jerry Coon – August 20, 2017

SERMON NOTES

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

Matthew 5:7

“Merciful” means beneficial or charitable.

Heb 2:17 speaks of Jesus as our merciful and faithful high priest.

“If we honor God, He will honor us, if we show mercy to others, especially to His children, He will show even more abundant mercy to us.”

This 5th Beatitude does not teach that mercy to men brings mercy from men, but the mercy to men brings mercy from God.

(Hebr. 2:17) ¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

The basic meaning was to give help to the afflicted and to rescue the helpless. **IT IS COMPASSION IN ACTION!**

Mercy offers relief from punishment. Grace offers pardon for the crime – mercy eliminates pain – grace cures the disease.

Mercy and Justice

Justice gives exactly what is deserved, Mercy gives less punishment and more help than is deserved.

The Source of Mercy

Pure mercy is a gift of God! When man fell, God’s love was extended to His fallen creatures in mercy (Luke 6:36) “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

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SERMON NOTES

“Blessed Are the Pure in Heart for They Shall See God.”

Matthew 5:8

- 1) The “Heart” is the control center of the mind and will, as well as the emotions.

(Jer. 17:9-10) ⁹“The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰I, the LORD, search the heart, *I* test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

- 2) To have a clean heart – unmixed, unpolluted, cleansed, forgiven – single purpose is to glorify God.

(1 Peter 1:22) ²²Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit, in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.

The Person With A Pure Heart

- 1) Keeps himself unspotted from the world

(Prov 20:9) ⁹Who can say, “I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin”? The obvious answer is NONE. Cleansing begins with recognition of weakness.

- 2) We must stay in God’s Word

(Jn. 15:3) ³You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

- 3) It is essential to be controlled by walking in the will and way of the Holy Spirit.

(Gal 5:16) ¹⁶I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

SERMON NOTES

- 4) We must come before God daily in prayer.

(Eph 6:18) ¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

(Ps. 51:10) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

God has always been concerned above all else with the inside of a person, with the condition of the heart.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe the meaning of *mercy* in your own words?
2. How was Jesus merciful while He walked the earth?
3. What are some practical ways to show mercy to others?
4. How is the *heart* in Scripture really talking about the *mind*?
5. What is someone with a pure heart like?

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