

The searching character of these Beatitudes

misuse = excuse - but confront

THE BIRTHMARK OF PITY

not comfort afflicted, but affect comfort

Text: Matthew 5:7

His disposition as a result of what has gone before

INTRODUCTION: One of the prevailing philosophies of today is existentialism, which means that only an individual's present existence and decision is of ultimate concern. There is an Athesitic side of this which says that man is responsible to no one, so do what pleases you. This type of person is controlled and dominated by his own selfish desires. The Christian, however, says that God does exist and it is our response to His existence that gives our existence meaning. What pleases Him is most important. We are controlled by the will of God.

Turn one's eye like a parent

Some do not want their religion to affect them too much.

We are not meant to control our Christianity, rather our Christianity is meant to control us. "Christ liveth in me." Christ controls all my thoughts, all my outlooks, all my imagination, and as a result all my actions. That is why these Beatitudes are so searching. They reveal whether or not Christ is controlling us. That is why I call them Birthmarks. They are a vital part of the new creature in Christ

The Christian is controlled by Christ. That is why He is merciful, it is not a natural tendency. It is a result of a personal experience with the mercy of God. God's mercy towards us makes us merciful towards others.

I. DEFINITION OF MERCIFUL

Gospel songs in Luke Bruce's note books



1. Negatively--what it is not.

Sign of revival!! So open minded his brains run out.

Backsliders

(1) It is not "easy going." Men have an idea that they have a right to do as they please and that God ought to overlook it, etc. It does not mean smiling at sin, excusing sin, nor forgiving sin without sincere repentance.

Oh forgive! "That's (disturb)!"

(2) God is merciful, but He is not easy-going. "Our God is a consuming fire." "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Tendency of familiarity with God taken advantage

Ill-Hollywood religion: "Good old God", "Cat Jesus", "Living Doll". man upstairs - Russel Bankhead

2. Positively--what it is.

Two-Feed

Fear of God

(1) Mercy means the ability to get right inside the other person's skin until we see things with his eyes, think things with his thoughts, feel things with his feelings. It means to experience things together with another person; going through what he is going through.

Feel what another feels -

This is what God did in Jesus Christ. In the most literal sense, God got inside the skin of men. He came as a man; He came with men's eyes, feelings, thoughts. God knows what life is like because He got right inside of life.

THE BIRTHDAY OF MARY

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*The Gossip is spending too much
time looking at others, when he ought to
be looking at himself-*

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III--Queen Victoria, a close friend with Principle and Mrs. Tulloch. Prince Albert and Principle Tulloch died. Unannounced Queen came to see Mrs. Tulloch. Tulloch struggled to rise quickly and bow. Queen said, "My dear don't rise. I am not coming to you today as a queen to a subject, but as one woman who has lost her husband to another."

That is what God did; He came to men, not as the remote, detached, isolated, majestic God; but as a man. Have you hungered? So did Jesus. Wept at grave, lonely, tired, forsaken, faced death. The supreme instance of mercy is the coming of God in Jesus Christ.

"Love in word and deed"

outward manifestation of pity-

(2) Mercy is not emotion, but emotion which leads to action. It is pity plus action. It is pity plus a desire to relieve the suffering and its cause. In the New Testament pity which does nothing is hateful hypocrisy.

John 3:16-18; James 2:13.

mercy must incarnate itself in action

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF A MERCIFUL PERSON

1. He is kind in his judgment and criticism.

Rom 14:4

There is always a reason for a person acting as he does. If we went through the same trials and temptations we might act in the same manner.

first 3 Beatitudes

The merciful are too aware of their own sin and their own need of mercy to deal with others in sharp condemnation This deals the death blow to backbiting, and gossip.

2. He eager and ready to forgive.

He refuses to nurse a grudge. He flings hate out of his heart as a thing that is deadly and damning.

People have dealt easier with us--

III-Jesus and the woman taken in adultery. Jesus on the cross, "Forgive them." Stephen at his death

III- What would you do if you had in your power someone who had wronged you? Test 5

3. He gives himself to relieve the need.

This is the purpose for the parable of the Good Samaritan. Pity without action is hypocrisy. *a sloping religion*

III-Jacob Bright man lost his horse--people told how sorry they were--"How sorry are you? Five dollars worth? Took up a collection to buy the man a new horse.

The greatest need of man is salvation from sin. We often have pity for the lost, but if we do not act to relieve the need we are hypocrites!

III. ILLUSTRATION OF BEING MERCIFUL

Jesus

Jesus was well qualified to give this Beatitude. He is mercy in human form.

Stephen earned his mercy from Jesus,

1. Jesus is kind in His judgments. He knows all about us, yet he came into the world not to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved. *John 3:17*

2. Jesus is ready to forgive. How long did you have to beg Him? He is plenteous in mercy. *- Jesus on the Cross -*

3. Jesus gave Himself to relieve our need.

If God were like us, He would have sat in heaven pitying us in our sins, but did not bother Himself with our need. He had too many other things to do. No! He was moved with compassion and humiliated Himself and paid the ultimate price on the cross to relieve our sin. "He spared not His own Son." God knew men would reject and kill His Son, yet moved with mercy and compassion He voluntarily went to the cross, endured the cross, despising the shame, for the joy that was set before Him.

CONCLUSION: Jesus has suffered leaving us an example, that we should follow in His steps. It is not easy to really follow Jesus, especially in the matter of being merciful. Is this your birthmark?

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Del Daryl Church

Any fool can stick a
 match in a haystack &
 make a blaze -
 Easy to ignite -
 → Harder to put the fire
 out.

If there is peace in the Church, it
 can receive the blessings of G.