

Messiah Blesses the Merciful and Pure (Matthew 5:7-8)

Introduction: The Beatitudes are an excellent test of our faith
The order of the Beatitudes mimic the work of the Gospel

Blessed are the Merciful

1. All Christians are merciful toward others
2. Mercy (*chesed*) defined
 - chesed* is displayed in life and death situations
 - chesed* is a leading attribute of Yahweh and is the basis for our worship
 - chesed* is often associated with Yahweh's covenants
 - chesed* is used to describe the relationship between people
 - chesed* is used in a reciprocal manner
 - The greatest display of *chesed* – Christ on the cross
3. What does mercy look like in the life of a Christian?
 - taking upon ourselves the burdens of others
 - it is the opposite of a harsh, cruel, uncaring, cold world
 - it is manifested in forgiveness, even of our enemies
 - it is illustrated in the "Good Samaritan" of Luke 10:25-37

for they shall receive mercy

1. Is God's mercy a reward for our showing mercy to others?
2. Are you merciful?

Blessed are the pure in heart

1. Why the heart?
2. What is this purity?
 - Moral purity
 - single-mindedness / a singly devoted heart
3. Our hope is eternal purity, but our aim is daily purity (holiness)
4. How do we purify our hearts? (Luther)

for they shall see God

1. A present reality – Christians *see God* – as we know His true nature
2. A future promise – we shall see Him face to face (1 John 3:2, 1 Cor 13:2)