

Matthew 5:7–9

Blessed to Obtain the Greatest Mercy

Saturday, December 9, 2023 • Read Matthew 5:7–9

Questions from the Scripture text: Who are blessed (v7a)? What will they obtain (v7b)? Who else are blessed (v8a)? What shall they see (v8b)? Who else are blessed (v9a)? What shall they be called (v9b)?

How does believers' behavior show their blessedness? Matthew 5:7–9 prepares us for the morning sermon on the Lord's Day. In these three verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **believers' behavior shows their blessedness by showing that they are about to come into their inheritance in Christ**.

Merciful mercy-obtainers, v7. Believers have already received mercy. They are forgiven much, so they love the Lord much (cf. 1Jn 4:20, Lk 7:47). They love the Lord much, so they love His people much (1Jn 4:21) and love their neighbors much (cf. Mt 22:37–39). Later in this sermon, we learn that we are much encouraged to ask God for forgiveness by the fact that His grace has made us forgiving (cf. 6:12). The grace that makes believers into forgiving people makes them into merciful people.

But God's grace never begins with making us merciful or forgiving. It begins by making us alive and forgiven (cf. v3–6). Only then does grace make us to be more and more merciful. Do you need to grow in being merciful? What you need is God's grace, in Christ, by His Spirit. Look to Him, by use of His means, as you look to Him to use His means!

And God's grace that forgives us and justifies us and sanctifies us never stops there. We have been shown great mercy. We are continually shown new mercy (cf. Lam 3:22–23). But the greatest mercies are yet to come: first, when death carries us into the presence of Christ; and, then, when at the last day, rather than being cast into the lake of fire, we are vindicated by Him at the judgment, receive rewards that are according to His grace in Christ, and enjoy Him forever in a New Heavens and New Earth where righteousness dwells. Believers have obtained mercy already, but what great mercy believers have yet to obtain!

Single-minded seekers and obtainers of God Himself, v8. The word "pure" has the sense of "cleansed. In Scripture, purity and holiness have a basic sense of singular devotion toward God. Competing trusts, competing values, competing motives, and competing joys are the essence of impurity, idolatry, and evil. When the Lord brings someone to faith in Christ, He increasingly gives that believer a singleness of mind to desire God and be devoted to God.

More and more, the believer considers the knowledge of God to be the greatest blessing of all. And, more and more, this is exactly what God gives him. To see the glory of the Lord Himself in all of the creation. And especially to see God, more and more, through the Scripture—supremely so in the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are a believer, then this has been, and will be your experience: to see God, more and more, by faith... until you see Him even by sight, when you lay your eyes upon your God and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the last day. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God!

Peace-making sons of the God of peace, v9. God is the peace-making God. The Father reconciles us to Himself by the death of His Son (cf. Rom 5:8–9). The Son Himself is our peace—not only making peace between us and God, but even with one another (cf. Eph 2:14–18). Indeed, the Spirit produces peace, even within us, where He has come to dwell (cf. Gal 5:22; Col 3:15).

Yes, this means living in the manner of Eph 4:30–5:2 and Col 3:12–15), as we seek to live at peace with all men (cf. rom 12:18) and help them be at peace with one another. But, even more than that, it means seeking others' peace with God. Praying for their salvation (cf. Rom 10:1) and laboring for their salvation, in whatever manner God permits us to participate in His doing so (cf. Rom 11:13–14; 1Cor 9:22; James 5:20).

Nothing demonstrates the genuineness of our adoption like joining the great family work of the triune God of peace! How blessed! Not only to see God, but to be conformed to the image of His Son, to have His own character, His own joy (cf. Rom 8:26–30). The child of God that He has begun to make out of you, He will surely finish making!

Which of these marks of blessedness do you most see in yourself already? Which do you see least in yourself? What opportunities have you had to practice each? How can you grow in them? If they are yours and increasing, of what can you be sure (cf. 2Pet 1:10–11)?

Sample prayer: Our merciful, holy, peacemaking God, we thank You for the great grace in which You have saved us, bringing us out of ourselves, and into Christ, by the work of Your Spirit. Now, continue to conform us to Christ, by the work of Your same Spirit, until that work which You have begun, You will have completed in the day of Christ Jesus. For this assured and infinite blessing we ask confidently, through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP73C "Yet Constantly, I Am with You" or TPH464 "The Beatitudes"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Matthew chapter 5 verses 7 through 9. These are God's words. Blessed, are the merciful? For they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure and heart. For they shall see god. Blessed are the peacemakers. For they shall be called sons of god. Moment, that sends this reading of what's word.

Here, the lord, jesus continues. Teaching us the happiness of those. Who are his? Yet imperfect only partially sanctified. Disciples in this world and yet. How greatly blessed we are. To have been given light and life by his spirit. To turn to him and trust in him.

The first place he says, blessed are the merciful For they shall obtain mercy. And this is similar to. What he's going to say, and Teaching us how to pray in the next chapter. When he teaches us to pray, forgive us our debts. We forgive. Our debtors. Which we say.

Essentially have mercy on us. Just as we have been merciful with others. And neither here nor there is it. Saying that we earn has mercy. By being merciful. Rather. If we are merciful From the heart. Then we have already been shown mercy. We've already been shown the mercy of being.

Joined to christ by faith. And made right with god through him. So that we may know. That we are in christ jesus and nothing will ever separate us from the love of god. Because the only place where our being genuinely merciful, come from Is from that union with christ.

And so we are shown a great initial mercy and The lord continues to be merciful to us on an ongoing basis. As politically described. Mercy is mercies being. New every morning lamentations. Three 22, 23. But notice the blessedness isn't even. About the Great mercy in the past of being brought to faith in christ and united to him.

Or the. Current mercy of his persisting with us and sanctifying this Conforming us to christ, making us to be more like him. All that is a great mercy. But the blessedness here is a forward looking blessedness. The mercy, we shall obtain. Here is a mercy, the Here's a blessedness that is looking forward to.

Are being perfected into the image of christ. At our death, all right? His return. There's a Forward looking blessedness looks forward. To the mercy that we shall obtain in the last day. When we are given resurrected bodies, like unto his glorious body, One of the final judgment we are.

Vindicated before angles and men. Owned by god. And those good works that have been done in christ. Jesus. Will be rewarded. Not according to merit. Last the reward to be diminished. I The sinfulness and weakness that came from us. But we will be rewarded for those good works. According to grace, according to christ.

From whom and in whom they were done. And we will enter into the blessedness of god. The blessedness of our lord. And enjoy him fully. And a new heavens and a new earth. In which? Righteousness dwell and in which we ourselves have been perfected and righteousness. So we will obtain mercy.

We have been given much already, but How great is the mercy to which we look forward. So blessed, are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy? Indeed, that Perfect. A single-mindedness. Cleanness purity. Of heart and which we desire. God, rightly where he is. Our delight. And there is Nothing that we delight in apart from that delight.

Which isn't him? And that is the purity. Of heart that he describes here, blessed are the pure In heart for they shall see god. And never. So gently here. He teaches us again. About the new nature of the christian. That are remaining sin. It's still clings to us. It's still from us.

We're still culpable before it. We must put it to death and never excuse it. And yet, we say with the apostle and Roman 7. Yet not i but sin that dwells in me. And we say, with, First, john three. That the one who is. Born of god. Does not send and cannot sin.

For the seed, the offspring of god. Remains in him. So yes, they're sin that comes out of us. That is from, That which remains of our former nature and we hate it. And we own it before the lord. But at the same time by virtue of union with christ, We say.

Not, i But sin that dwells in me, i In my core self. Have been united to the lord jesus christ. And that's how we can come to this verse and read blessed are the pure and heart. Without throwing up our hands and saying, well, i guess that one's not for me.

Truly. Our new self-in christ. In the spirit. This pure in heart. And that's why whenever some whenever i thought comes To our mind or an emotion from our heart, our words from my lips are actions.

Or words from our lips or actions that are from the flesh. Would kill it. This, that's not suicide. When we do that. We're killing that, which remains from a self. That is not our identity anymore. That's self-preservation to kill. Our remaining sin. The one who will be forever. The one.

That i believe her now is This pure in heart cleansed. Cleansed of all other. Dependence. Cleansed of all other delight. Cleansed of all other devotion. Has all of these things, only for the lord. Now, And, Therefore, the Purity of their heart means, they're great. Desire is to see god.

And so, the blessing of the pure and heart is that they will get The very thing that the spirit has produced produced in them. The desire for. They will see god.

So, That which The lord does in us as he. Did an asap. Cleansing his heart cleansing, his mind. So that he would come at last to say whom have i in heaven, but you And there is none, i desire on earth beside you. Not until ASF died. Was. That finally fully is only experience.

But in the moment that he died,

Excuse me, i'm sorry.

His heart and mind were finally fully conformed. To what the spirit had carried him to write and pray and say. Whom have i in heaven, but you And, His experienced then was exactly what he had prophesied by the spirit. Afterward, you will receive me to glory.

And in that moment, When his heart was finally perfected and conformed, His heart was cleansed. He was pure and heart. He did. However, it is. That the sole Directly experiences the presence of the lord. Especially before then. Um, at that time.

The sun had not been incarnated resurrected or ascended. And yet in the way that is described their anthropomorphically. He saw God And so, That awaits every believer. We are. Looking forward to the finishing of the cleansing. Of our heart and our experience when there is nothing that remains from our former nature.

And in that moment, When we? Have. When that work has been finished. That which we have desired more than ever. Will be infinitely abundantly fulfilled to us. And in the last place, blessed are the peacemakers. For they shall be called sons of god. There is the On the begotten son.

There is The beloved son with whom god is well pleased. And he is a peace making son. This is how god has especially made his unknown. As the one who was reconciling us. Not only to god, but even to one another So that As we are all reconciled to god through christ.

Christ, breaks down that of the middle wall of separation. Christ reconciles us to each other christ. Makes peace between us and god. Christ makes peace between us and what another When the more peacemaking we become then, The more like unto his son, the more we are conformed to the image of his son.

As his love. Predestined us to be. Romans 8:29. And so those Who our sons of god, will be peacemakers. And there will be peacemakers according to God's word. Not those. Who pretend that differences over truth or small or differences over morality or small? That has not making peace at all.

Peacemaking is first piece with god. And only secondarily peace with men. But the father is a piecemaking father. He demonstrates his love for us and that when we were his enemies, he gave us his son. The spirit is peacemaking spirit. The fruit that he bears on us. There's love.

Joy. Peace. And so, the triune god is a peacemaking god and When we, by faith in jesus and union within begin to be conformed to his image, Then become those who seek. First and foremost, peace with god. That even the whole creation would be reconciled to God. In jesus christ.

Then we also Seek piece with one another. And we put away. Bitterness and grudge, holding become humble, and gentle and forgiving. All those wonderful things in. The middle of colossians 3. The end of ephesians 4 and beginning of the ephesians 5. And so this, peacemaking, again, Reminds us that we already are.

The children of god, the whole what manner of love? The father has shown us. That we should be called sons of god, and that is what we are. It should be called children of God. And that is what we are. The we are blessed and that the spirit has already taught us to call god.

Our abba. And we know him as the spirit of the sun. But there shall become there. Shall come a day. When this work having been perfected in us, We are revealed as the sons of god. At the resurrection. Or the redemption of our bodies. To use the language there in the middle of Romans 8.

Which the creation itself is eagerly awaiting for the revealing Of the sons of god. When it will come and enjoy. The glorious freedom. That belongs to us as god's children. And the congregation. Uh, not the congregation. Belongs to us, which Which belongs to us as god's children. And to the entire creation.

As that which has. Then set under. God's children. Which is what we are. So, in the last day, We will obtain that mercy and in the last day, We will see god. In the last day, will be publicly owned. Before a new heaven, a new earth, angels and glorified men.

That's the sons of god. And all of that blessing, we see already. In progress. As those who to some extent are already merciful. Those who in our new nature. Our pure and heart. And looking to be cleansed of the remaining presence. Of what is left of our former nature.

And those who have already. Begun to relish. Peace with god. Then peace with one another And all of these. Blessedness, all of this blessedness in Process. Will be completed. Thank god, and may he make us? Glad and the knowledge. Of the end. That belongs to what he has begun for us and in us.

The bed. Let's pray. Her gracious gone. My heavenly father would pray that you would Continue to help us by your spirit. Conforming us to christ. Giving us his own. Mercifullness. His own. Delighting you. His own peace seeking peace making. Priority pleasure. For we ask it in his name. Amen.