

Series: Evidences and Gifts of God's Favor part 3

Matthew 5:1-12 "The Beatitudes"

2/20/11

Matthew 5:1 And when He saw the multitudes, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

² And opening His mouth He *began* to teach them, saying,

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

5. An Evidence of God's Favor: mercy

Matthew 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

God Grows us in mercy as we:

a. live blown away by God's mercy

James 2:12 So speak and so act, as those who are to be judged by *the* law of liberty.

¹³ For judgment *will be* merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

Matthew 18:23-35 Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

b. don't become religious

Matthew 9:10 And it happened that as He was reclining *at the table* in the house, behold many tax-gatherers and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples.

¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw *this*, they said to His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax-gatherers and sinners?"

¹² But when He heard this, He said, "*It is* not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.

¹³ "But go and learn what *this* means, 'I desire compassion, and not sacrifice,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

A Gift of God's Favor: we'll experience God's mercy

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

6. An Evidence of God's Favor: purity of heart

Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

God Grows us in purity of heart as we practice singleness of:

focus

James 4:1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

² You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

⁴ You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

⁶ But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom.

¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

thinking

Colossians 3:1 If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

motive

Matthew 6:1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

² "When therefore you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

³ "But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing

⁴ that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

A Gift of God's Favor: we'll see God

Revelation 22:4 and they shall see His face...

7. An Evidence of God's Favor: peace making

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

God Grows us in peace making as we:

a. love God even if it causes conflicts

Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when *men* cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.

¹² "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

b. be fast to apologize, forgive and reconcile

Matthew 5:23 "If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

c. befriend the weak and put away judgmentalism

Romans 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but not for the purpose of* passing judgment on his opinions.

² One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.

³ Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.

d. help reconcile others who need help

Matthew 18:15 "And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

¹⁶ "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.

e. love one another enough to correct that which harms peace

Galatians 2:11. But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

¹² For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.

f. live the mission

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

A Gift of God's Favor: we bear His name