

Beatitudes Sermon Week TWO

TITLE: GRACE in the Beatitudes

ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE TODAY?

LET'S START TODAY WITH A QUESTION...What is Grace?

Grace is *God stepping toward us*, loving us, rescuing us, empowering us, and transforming us—not because we earned it, but because His heart overflows with LOVE, Mercy, Compassion and GRACE and doing the same for others ☺ JESUS IS THE FACE OF GRACE, His Sacrifice on a Cross, Doing for YOU and I what we could not do for ourselves!

CHALLENGE: If YOU were God for a day-LIKE-With the Jewish Nation Israel-

A people chosen by God for Special Treatment because He loved them first... This group of people you LOVED, cherished, talked to, walked with, guided, directed, protected, fed, clothed, and even fought their enemies and gave them the BEST of everything this earth has to offer.....And after all this you watch as everything you gave them was thrown back in your face! This people you blessed with SO MUCH GRACE, would betray you and give their love NOT to you, but to other fake gods, to idols.....**IF YOU WERE GOD FOR A DAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH THESE PEOPLE?**

BUT, Here is What God Did! Despite Israel's failures, God kept showing: More Patience and grace as He continued to Rescue them over and over again, even sending His One and only Son Jesus to save them from all their sin. He continued to Forgive Them, Restoring them over and over again, HE Kept His Word with them AND CONTINUED TO POUR OUT HIS UNENDING, EVERLASTING, INEXHAUSTABLE GRACE UPON THEM..... ... So How Much GRACE Do You have for Others? Because, Giving Grace is what God does for YOU and wants you to do for OTHERS---**BTW if you start KEEPING SCORE, YOU FAIL THE GRACE CHALLENGE....AND FAIL THE LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF OTHERS TEST!** ☺

JUST SAYING.....

Matt. 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

We are BLESSED when we come to God with our gas tank on empty, our cell phone battery on “no charge”, recognizing we are nothing, have nothing and in need of help that ONLY GOD CAN GIVE....Help me Jesus I've fallen and can't get up is what we NEED to pray! It is here we meet our Savior and find ABUNDANT GRACE in our time of need....**GRACE IS WHAT SAVES US**, through faith... that ONLY GOD can energize and make effective!!!!

POOR IN SPIRIT is our entrance into The Kingdom of Heaven....AND it is wisdom for each of us to *remember even after we have been saved by God...* We need to STAY POOR IN SPIRIT, So that we NEVER think we are too good to OFFER GRACE TO OTHERS WHEN “THEY” NEED IT!

EPH. 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Who do you know right now, that is in need of GRACE, perhaps more than you HAVE been willing to give them in the past? God is calling you to stop counting how many times someone sinned, STOP keeping score?

LET'S GO TO GOD INDIVIDUALLY IN PRAYER AND ASK FOR “MORE” GRACE SO THAT WE MIGHT EXTEND IT TO SOMEONE ELSE IN NEED...

God's Grace doesn't just forgive us — it transforms us.

It shapes our character in ways we could never manufacture ourselves.

Matt. 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Mourning isn't only about the death of a loved one.

It's the grief you carry for broken relationships... unmet expectations... the pain you hide behind a polite smile...the hurt you *still* feel from something years old.

Jesus doesn't say, "Get over it."

He says, "Draw close to Me and I will comfort you."

And His comfort isn't just a pat on the back.

It's His presence, where often He doesn't need or use words, *He's just there!* To listen when you need someone to talk to. To let you know He'll spend as much time with you as you need because He doesn't wear a watch. Just to hold you and remind you He understands...He truly feels your pain and He knows what pain feels like!!!!

When Jesus saw the family of Lazarus broken and weeping, the Bible says in the shortest verse in the Bible, John 11, "Jesus Wept"!!!!

And Jesus Word brings comfort in the darkest moments of our life
where He reminds us that, *"God causes ALL THINGS to work together for good, to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose"* Rom. 8:28.

And we know that His purpose is ALWAYS GOOD, ALWAYS RIGHT, ALWAYS PERFECT....

Your tears are not a sign of failure; they are an invitation for divine comfort. Your tears are safe with God. He meets you where YOU'RE AT!

LET'S GO AGAIN TO GOD INDIVIDUALLY IN PRAYER AND SHARE ANY HURT, ANY SORROW SO THAT YOU MIGHT FEEL THE GRACE OF GOD WIPING OVER YOUR TEARS, BECAUSE HE LONGS TO BE THE ONE WHO COMFORTS YOU!

Matt. 11:28-30 (Jesus Speaking) "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and You will find rest for your souls. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Matt. 5:5 "Blessed are the gentle (Meek), for they shall inherit the earth.

they shall inherit the earth

Inheriting the EARTH is Matthew's way of looking forward to the eternal "promised land" for those who are "Meek" where there is a NEW ETERNAL Heaven and a NEW ETERNAL "EARTH" also recorded in the Apostle John's Book of **Revelation 21:1-5** *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.* ² *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.* ³ *And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,* ⁴ *and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."* And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

"Blessed are the gentle (Meek),

Meek or Gentle are **both** good English translations from the Greek *praus, prah-ooce'* that explain the heart attitude and character disciples of Jesus are to have...

MEEK is strength under power, it is NOT weakness!

Think of a mighty horse, something like a stallion or Clydsdale, so powerful, yet with a bit in its mouth, a simple, tiny movement of a finger controls the whole animal...In the same way the Holy Spirit takes our sin nature and replaces it with the Fruit of the Spirit...Gentleness!

BY GOD'S GRACE Christ transforms the UNwise use of power corrupted by sin and turns it into a gentle heart suitable for His purpose...

Meekness isn't giving up. It's giving in, trusting God to guide the outcome

LET ME SHARE A STORY WITH YOU....The Old Man and an Earthquake

A massive earthquake struck a small village. People were panicking, running, screaming, searching for their loved ones. Buildings shook, dust filled the air, and the ground rolled like waves.

In the middle of that chaos stood an elderly man leaning on a cane — calm, quiet, unmoved. As people rushed by, he helped a crying child find her parents... guided a terrified woman to a safe place... spoke gentle words that steadied trembling hearts.

Hours later, when the aftershocks passed, someone asked him, “How were you so calm?” He smiled and said, “I’ve lived through many storms. And I have learned that fear doesn’t help me stand — but trust in GOD does.”

He wasn’t calm because he was weak.

He wasn’t calm because he lacked emotion.

He was calm AND STRONG because he trusted in our Mighty God!

That’s meekness: NOT the absence of feeling, but the presence of deep trust in the God who holds the ground beneath our feet.

Meekness is trusting God enough that you no longer need to fight for control. Some of you have been carrying the weight of trying to fix everything — your family, your marriage, your future, your finances. Meekness is the STRENGTH of *letting go and surrendering everything to Jesus*

LET’S GO AGAIN TO GOD INDIVIDUALLY IN PRAYER AND LET THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEAL ANY AREA OF YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU NEED TO BE MORE GENTLE...ANY PLACE IN YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU HAVE POWER, BUT ARE KEEPING GOD FROM BEING THE ONE WHO IS IN CONTROL....

Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Dikaios is the ROOT word in Greek meaning holiness, what is Godly

We TASTE what is RIGHT, what is HOLY on earth, we know its possible, but we don't see it happening, we get frustrated as the world we live in continues to spiral more and more out of control!

BUT HERE IS GOD'S PROMISE: There is a NEW heaven and a NEW earth coming and YOU WILL BE SATISFIED if you hunger for it!

1. You will be satisfied in the future when ALL THINGS ARE MADE NEW AGAIN as God has promised ☺
2. But, you and I have a job to do in the meantime on THIS EARTH....
Give GRACE to others who are Unholy, UNgodly, PRAY for them
while you pray for yourself, especially that you are NOT part of the problem, but part of the solution.....
3. The ONLY THING THAT IS GOING TO FIX THIS WORLD IS JESUS!!!

And He's coming... our job while we wait, is to tell anyone who will listen, that JESUS is the *ONLY WAY*, He is the *ONLY TRUTH* and HE is the *ONLY LIFE* worth chasing after, if you long for "Satisfaction" or "Justice" it is ALL ON THE WAY!!!

This is why we Pray the Lord's Prayer that Jesus will teach us in this same sermon..."Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be done ON EARTH as it already is in Heaven"

JESUS alone is HOLY and RIGHTEOUS, yet by HIS "GRACE", He calls us to become Holy and Righteous as He is...and to follow in HIS FOOTSTEPS because ONLY "IF" and "WHEN" we do, will we be truly satisfied.....anything else, anything less, is the WIDEGATE that leads to destruction...

2Pet. 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

GOD GIVES MORE GRACE FOR THE SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY AND THIRSTY

"Spiritual hunger is a sign that God is working BECAUSE DEAD THINGS DON'T HUNGER....

GRACE TO WAIT

I hunger for a world made right,
for wrongs undone, for dawn not night;
I thirst for holiness to rise
where shadows fail and goodness lies.

But in this in-between, this ache, this weight,
God gives my trembling heart
the grace to wait—
to crave His righteousness right here,
to hope through every doubt and fear,
to taste, by faith, what's yet to be:
a world remade, the curse set free.

One day the sky will split with light,
and every longing find its sight—
new earth, new heaven, all things straight.
Till then I walk with steady hope
and heaven's fire my one desire...

He gives me grace—
the grace to wait.

**ONCE AGAIN LET'S GO TO GOD INDIVIDUALLY IN PRAYER AND ASK HIM
FOR "MORE" GRACE FOR OTHERS, SO THAT "THEY" WILL SEE GOD IN
"US".....LET US HUNGER AND THIRST FOR HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS SO THAT
WE WILL EACH BE SATISFIED!**

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

Mercy embraces "BOTH" forgiveness for the guilty and compassion for the suffering and needy.

MERCIFUL — DID YOU KNOW, IT IS ONLY GOD'S GRACE THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU AND I TO LIFT OTHERS UP WITH MERCY... Where instead of repaying wrath with wrath, anger with anger, eye for an eye, or hate with hate, we take the high road of Jesus and extend mercy... *where none is expected or deserved!*

TRUTHFULLY, you may not want to, BUT JESUS tells you that you need to....

Do you know who gives mercy? People who know "they've" received mercy. **QUESTION:** As sinners saved by God's GRACE, how much MERCY do you think God has given **YOU**?

I know its hard for you to believe, but I too deserve judgment and condemnation for all the sins I have committed AFTER becoming a Christian...and I know what you are thinking, "NO PASTOR NOT YOU"!!!!... ☺

And since we are being truthful, you ALL deserve the same thing I deserve, BUT, here is where the sacrifice of Jesus comes to our rescue in our time of need!

Instead of vessels of wrath, reserved for judgment and destruction, God made us vessels of His "GRACE" and "MERCY"!

Did we deserve it? NOPE! Do we sometimes take it for granted when we fall back into our fleshly stinking thinking? YUP!

But I pray we never forget it, so that as Children of God, we might extend to others, what has already been given to us....MERCY!!!!

Blessed are the Merciful, for they shall receive MERCY....

There is a day coming when you and I will stand before the Bema Judgment for all believers, NOT for Condemnation, but for rewards and I for one would hate to loose whatever rewards Jesus would GRACE me

with....Perhaps the Victor's Crown, Who knows of the rewards God has prepared for you and I in heaven....

Perhaps when you are welcomed into to heaven you too want to hear the encouraging words, *"Well done good and faithful servant"*,
AND if I'm not being merciful to others, I don't want anything to stymie God's willingness to continue giving me His mercy ☺ Just saying...

REMEMBER: When it comes to others you cannot conceive of being merciful to, your job is NOT TO FIX THEM - or PUNISH THEM....Your job is to extend MERCY TO THEM and Let God FIX THEM! ☺

AS WE CLOSE IN OUR "LAST" PRAYER REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE UNWORTHY TAX COLLECTER BEFORE JESUS....

Luke 18:13 *"But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'*

AS WE PREPARE FOR COMMUNION LET ME ENCOURAGE YOU TO PRAY THAT PRAYER.....AND THEN PRAY THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT, WILL BRING TO MIND ANY PERSON YOU HAVE BEEN WITHHOLDING MERCY FROM, SO THAT YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE LOVE OF GOD TO THEM AS YOU HAVE ALSO BEEN THE RECIPIENT OF GOD'S "MERCY", HIS GRACE AND HIS LOVE FOR "BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY WILL RECEIVE MERCY.....