

# **Beatitudes Sermon, Week THREE**

TITLE: GRACE in the Beatitudes 3-Part Series

**REMEMBER FROM LAST WEEK... God's Grace is the means to "Eternal Life" found only in Jesus Christ! ..... His GRACE doesn't just forgive us — it transforms us.**

*Grace transforms us into something beautiful for the benefit of others, in the service of Christ Jesus our King!*

*2Cor. 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed*

## **THIS IS THE JOURNEY OF GRACE...**

First God meets and saves us with and by *His* GRACE, (EPH 2:8-9)  
then God changes us (Sanctification) through His GRACE as we follow  
... ..... after Jesus,  
then God works through us as we offer GRACE to OTHERS. ☺

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

**Purity isn't about being perfect**, it's about the perfection of God IN YOU!

**Purity is about being *undivided*** — it's about having a heart pointed toward God even with your imperfections.

Maybe you've said: "I want to follow Jesus... but I still struggle." OR "I want to honor God... but my heart doesn't feel clean."

God works from the inside out starting with a HEART TRANSPLANT, GIVING YOU THE HEART OF CHRIST, as He's making you whole/holy.

## **STORY**

The hospital room had one window. It faced a brick wall. No skyline. No trees. Just gray stone and rusted pipes. The kind of view that makes long days feel even longer. Every afternoon, the elderly woman in the bed closest to the window would describe what she saw. She spoke softly, but with wonder. "There's a park out there," she would say. "Children are playing. A couple just got engaged. Someone's walking a dog that keeps pulling on the leash." The woman in the second bed—too weak to stand, too weak to look—would close her eyes and listen. For an hour each day, she forgot her pain. She forgot the smell of antiseptic. She forgot the diagnosis. When the window-side woman died quietly one night, grief filled the room. Days later, the nurse offered to move the surviving patient to the window bed. When she was lifted and turned, she finally saw the view for herself. Just a wall. No park. No children. No joy. Confused, she asked the nurse, "She used to describe so much life out there... how could she see it?" The nurse paused. "She was completely blind," she said. "She couldn't see the wall either." "She must have described what she carried inside."

**"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."**

Purity of heart isn't about what your eyes can take in.  
It's about what your heart refuses to let go of.

A bitter heart sees walls everywhere. A fearful heart sees only threats. But a pure heart—washed, surrendered, uncluttered—  
**sees God...even in suffering.**

**Some people look straight at miracles and miss them.**

Others, with failing bodies and fading sight, **see God clearly.**

Because the promise isn't that the pure in heart will see **better circumstances**...The promise is that they will see **Him.**

And once you've seen God—even a brick wall can't block the view.

**This is WHY David was a man after God's own heart, because he had a pure heart that was open to truth...and he wrote about His desire to have a pure heart before God EVEN AFTER his sin with Bathsheba....**

***Psa. 51** Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;  
According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. For I know  
my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have  
sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You  
speak And blameless when You judge.*

**PRAYER**

**Matt. 5:9** “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” I WANT TO SPEND A LITTLE MORE TIME HERE TODAY BECAUSE OF THE WORLD THAT WE LIVE IN TODAY, FULL OF WALLS INSTEAD OF BRIDGES!

### **GRACE MAKES US BRIDGE BUILDERS**

The world is quick to take sides as people put up impenetrable walls that can't be climbed or broken through. But Jesus calls us to build bridges.

#### **Illustration:**

A firefighter once said, “When there's a fire, everyone runs out... except us. We run in.” *Blessed are the Peacemakers for they do the same in chaos.*

**Where others run from conflict**, grace empowers you and I to step in gently as peacemakers because this is what Children of God do!

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

#### **Story:**

In one church, two families didn't speak for years. Finally, during communion, one man walked over, put a hand on the other's shoulder, and whispered, “Can we start over?” The tears flowed and healing began.

**That's grace making peace.** (Grace remember is giving to others what they don't deserve...The same thing God gives to us 😊)

**Peace-making is not peace-keeping.** PEACE-MAKERS *initiate* peace, whereas peace keeping is just maintaining status quo!

Peace-making is the *intentional work* of bringing calm where there is chaos and grace where there is tension.

Sometimes Peace-MAKING looks like getting on your knees in **prayer**

Sometimes Peace-MAKING looks like sitting down and **listening**-- asking questions instead of giving advice and/or your opinion.

Sometimes Peace-MAKING looks like **apologizing**, even if you're not wrong.

Sometimes Peace-MAKING looks like **grace**, refusing to play the game of retaliation and turning the other cheek.

**When you're a Peace-Maker, you look most like Jesus. 😊 WWJD 😊**

**STORY** “There’s an old story that’s been told in many ways that I believe will help us appreciate the value of a peacemaker...”

Two brothers inherited a small piece of land after their father died. Between their houses ran a narrow stream—small enough to step across. For years they farmed side by side, prayed at the same table, worshiped in the same church. But one careless argument turned their relationship into a cold silence. Words were said that couldn’t be pulled back. Pride hardened. Forgiveness stalled. One morning, the older brother noticed something shocking. A wooden wall had been built overnight—tall planks driven deep into the earth—cutting his property in half. Where the stream once flowed freely, now stood a barrier. His chest burned with anger. *So this is how it ends*, he thought. That same day, a traveling carpenter knocked on his door. “Sir,” the man said, “I’m looking for small jobs. Anything you need?” The brother pointed to the wall. “I want something built,” he said. “But not a wall. I want a *bridge*. A bridge so my brother can cross whenever he wants.” The carpenter nodded and went to work. All day the brother avoided watching. When evening came, he returned—and his breath caught in his throat. There was no wall. Instead, a **beautiful wooden bridge** arched over the stream, sturdy and wide. Handrails carved with care. Not rushed. Not cheap. As he stood there stunned, footsteps approached. It was his younger brother. Tears streamed down his face as he crossed the bridge. “I’m so sorry,” he said, voice breaking. “I’ve missed you.” The older brother collapsed into his arms. Years of bitterness dissolved in a moment. They turned to thank the carpenter—but he was already packing his tools. “Wait,” the brothers said. “Please stay. There’s *more* work to be done.” The carpenter smiled gently. “No,” he said. “There are *many* walls to tear down... and many *bridges* yet to be built.” Then he walked away.

**POINT:** Walls are easily built, between ourselves and others...AND even between God Himself...Pride builds walls fast, AND Hate nails them together. *Is. 59:1-2 Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. But your **iniquities** have made a **separation** between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.* TATOO JOHN 1:9 ON YOUR BRAIN 😊

**Bridges** cost something. Wood. Nails. Time. *Blood*.

**Jesus, by of the shedding of His Blood, is the perfect PEACEMAKER who through the BRIDGE of the CROSS made peace with all things.**

Col. 1:19-20 *For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and **through Him** to reconcile all things to Himself, **having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him**, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.*

Eph. 2:14 (NLT) *For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down **the wall** of hostility that separated us. <sup>15</sup> He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. **He made peace** between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. <sup>16</sup> Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.*

**At Christmas,**

We remember, God didn't build a wall to keep sinners out...He built a **bridge** from heaven to earth, from holiness to humanity, from death to life.

**And the cross is the GREATEST bridge ever known to mankind!**

**APPLICATION**

Every time we *refuse* forgiveness, we add another plank to a **wall**.

Every time we *choose grace*, we lay another board on a **bridge**.

And somewhere in the middle of ANY broken relationship,

**Jesus is waiting—tools in hand—looking to help you build a BRIDGE!**

**PRAYER**

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

**Matt. 5:11** *"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me."*

**"GRACE" KEEPS OUR STEPS STEADY AS WE LOOK AT THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS** (JUST REMEMBER WHAT JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES AND WHAT THEY COULD EXPECT, and to remember the Glory to come ☺)

**Matt. 24:9** *"Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers."*

**Matt. 5:12** *"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me."*

**The GLORY to come cannot compare with momentary affliction and the temporary affliction that comes with being a Christ Follower...**

**The prophets that have gone before us are residing in heaven with Jesus!**

**Just ask Charlie Kirk! (Was it worth it? ☺) However, what's coming for those who reject God's love should break ALL of our Hearts!**

**2 Thess. 1:6-10** *For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, <sup>7</sup> and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, <sup>8</sup> dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, <sup>10</sup> when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed.*

**So while we rejoice in the Glorification to come at the return of Jesus, we also remember a few verses back,** "Blessed are those who are Merciful, for they shall receive mercy" This is why we are called to share the saving Gospel message of Jesus, with hearts of compassion for those who are perishing, so that we might be used by God to save some of them!

**If you don't know Jesus, come to Him NOW, without delay!!!**

## **Grace in Persecution —**

### **Following Jesus Costs Something, but it's worth it!!!!**

1. What can the World do to you or take away from you that God is NOT ALREADY prepared to give back to you a thousand fold? ☺
2. The last Beatitude reminds us that God's grace gives courage.
3. God's grace gives us Encouragement: Remember: You're never alone in persecution—Jesus walks with you and strengthens you.

(Remember the painting "Footprints".....**MY WARPED**

**ADDITION**..a Better reminder is the skid marks behind you when God in His Grace, dragged you across the finish line when you were kicking and screaming, "No Jesus, don't take me through this"!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Some of you know what it feels like to be misunderstood because of your faith.** To feel like you don't fit the culture around you.

To stand for what's right when it's unpopular.

But Jesus says: "You are blessed. I am with you, even if it cost you family or friends now as your sacrifice might result in them coming to me a little later."

**Grace gives you courage for those times you forget, Jesus is walking right beside you, through every test and trial you might face ☺**

AND, if we can just remember to *Worship Jesus through trials*: even a simple moment of praise will completely shift our perspective and change our heart.

**PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**