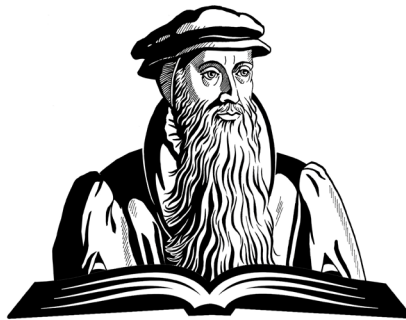


STUDY GUIDE
for
The Beatitudes
A VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

Lecture #7

Blessed Are the Merciful



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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STUDY GUIDE FOR

The Beatitudes

10 Lectures

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

1. A General Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount
2. A General Introduction to the Beatitudes
3. Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit
4. Blessed Are They That Mourn
5. Blessed Are the Meek
6. Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger and Thirst After Righteousness
7. Blessed Are the Merciful
8. Blessed Are the Pure in Heart
9. Blessed Are the Peacemakers
10. Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake



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The Beatitudes

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Lecture #7

Blessed Are the Merciful

Scripture Text

“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”—Matthew 5, verse 7

Key Points

1. By the fruit, you shall know the tree—also true about people. How you act reveals who you really are.
2. Now the Lord Jesus changes his focus from the heart to outward actions.
 - a. If a man is merciful, he will show mercy.
3. The union of Jesus Christ with believers.
 - a. Jesus is the vine, we are the branches.
 - b. The believer is transformed to think, and act, and speak like Jesus Christ.
4. The heart of mercy; it is a revelation of God’s love.
 - a. Difference between mercy and grace.
 - b. Mercy is compassion, tenderness, and kindness for the miserable and needy.
5. The hand of mercy – believers evidence their faith by showing mercy.
 - a. Examples from Scripture: Moses, the good Samaritan, and Stephen.
 - b. True believers want to share the mercy of God in the gospel.
6. The promise of mercy: “They shall obtain mercy.”

- a. Mercy does not merit salvation—we are saved by grace, through faith.
- b. In keeping God’s commandments, there is great reward: you reap what you sow.
- c. The best reward is the presence and comfort of the Holy Spirit.
- d. Even with our weaknesses and faults, Jesus comforts us with the promise of mercy.

Review Questions

1. Please explain the analogy of the fruit tree that Jesus gives us in Mathew 7:17–18. How should we understand this regarding the fruit in our own lives?

2. How does this analogy of the fruit tree relate to the doctrine of the union of Jesus Christ with believers?

3. What is the difference between mercy and grace? How are mercy and grace related to the love of God?

4. Give some examples from the Gospels where the Lord Jesus teaches and shows mercy.

5. How is mercy a characteristic of the born-again believer? Please give examples of how that will be seen in their life.

6. Rev. Vergunst gave us three examples of merciful men in the Bible. Please select one and explain how we can see that mercy being manifested.

7. What makes a true believer desire to share the gospel with others? Is it because they see the mercy of God in their own salvation?

8. Is it possible to earn or merit God's salvation by being merciful? Please explain your answer.

9. Please cite some Old and New Testament passages which teach the principle of mercy taught in this Beatitude.

10. In this Beatitude, what reward does the Lord Jesus promise for the merciful? What is the greatest reward of all? How is this comforting?

Personal Applications

1. In this lecture, Rev. Vergunst quoted the Puritan, Thomas Watson, several times. Please meditate on those quotes and show how they relate to this command to be merciful.

2. “Whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” (1 John 3:17). Rev. Vergunst says this is a litmus test of our faith. What is the state of your own heart? Do you see this principle of mercy in your life?
