

Second Baptist Church

1709 Barrow Rd | Little Rock, AR
Dr. Maurice Waston, Senior Pastor



November 15, 2023

Being a Counter-Cultural Christian (Part 2)

Matthew 5:7-9

When we opened this discussion on the “beatitudes”, it was pointed out that Jesus was establishing a counter-culture within the larger culture. He was teaching his disciples how He expected His people to live over against the world around them.

The first four (4) beatitudes that we covered seems to primarily deal with our attitudes towards God.

In the second half of the beatitudes, we turn from our attitude toward God to our attitude toward our fellow human beings.

I. Be C _____ (V7)

Mercy = is compassion for people in N _____. (Luke 10:30-37; James 2:15-16; I John 3:17; Matthew 6:14,15; Col 3:12-13).

Jesus said, “**Those who show mercy will obtain mercy.**” There is a divine L _____ in the universe that you will reap what you sow.

II. Be S _____ (V8)

The word “**pure**” means = clean, free from soil or stain, unmixed, unadulterated.

Some believe that purity of heart has to do with M _____ purity. (Psalm 24:3-4)

But this statement about the “**pure in heart**” is primarily a reference to sincerity. It has to do with our M _____.

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This beatitude demands that we do some S_____.

Jesus said, “***Blessed are the pure in heart*** (i.e. those whose motives are sincere) ***for they shall see God.***”

This is not just talking about seeing God in the by and by. It’s also talking about having a C_____ sight of what God is like even now.

III. Be a Person of R_____ (V9)

Now notice that Jesus does not say “**Blessed are the P_____!**”

William Barclay says:

There are many people who think that they are loving peace, when in fact they are piling up trouble for the future, because they refuse to face the situation and to take the action which the situation demands. The peace which the Bible calls blessed does not come from the evasion of issues; it comes from facing them, dealing with them and conquering them. What this beatitude demands is not the passive acceptance of things because we are afraid of the trouble of doing anything about them, but the active facing of things, and the *making* of peace, even when the way to peace is through struggle.¹

Peace often comes through P_____.

Jesus said that the peacemakers “**shall be called the children of God.**”

In other words, those who make peace are exemplifying the C_____ of their Father-God. Thus, Jesus says they shall be called God’s children.

¹ Barclay, W. (2001). [*The Gospel of Matthew*](#) (Third Ed., p. 125). Saint Andrew Press.