

# HOW NOT TO MISS CHRISTMAS

Matthew 5



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## Matthew 5

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. <sup>2</sup> He opened His mouth and *began* to teach them, saying,

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

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<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

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<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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## Matthew 5

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall  
receive mercy**

Mercy didn't work for the Romans

The Romans said that mercy was a disease of  
the soul

Mercy didn't work for the Jews

Did Mercy really work for Jesus?

# **Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy**

The real meaning behind the 5<sup>th</sup> Beatitude

Blessed, happy are the merciful for they shall  
receive the mercy of God

The fact that I am merciful to others, or you are  
merciful to others makes us eligible to receive  
the mercy of God

# Mercy Contrasted with Grace

Theologians say that there are two kinds of attributes of God relative, and absolute

The absolute attributes of God

God is Holy

God is Truth

God is Love



# Mercy Contrasted with Grace

The relative attributes of God

Holy becomes justice

Truth becomes faithfulness

Love becomes mercy and grace

Mercy comes from love and it is a twin of grace

Grace and mercy are closely related

Paul uses Grace and Mercy in his salutations in  
his epistles

# What is mercy?

Mercy is dealing with pain, suffering, with things that happen to us in life and as a result of sin

Grace deals with the problem, the solution, the healing

Mercy takes the diagnosis and works with it-

Grace deals with the root of the problem

Mercy kills the mosquitoes that causes malaria-

Grace drains the swamp

# The Story of the Good Samaritan illustrates mercy

## THREE PHILOSOPHIES OF LIFE

The Philosophy of the Thief

“What is yours is mine and I’ll take it”

The Philosophy of the Levite and the Priest

“What is mine, I’ll keep”

The Philosophy of the Good Samaritan

“What is mine is yours and I’ll share it with you anytime you  
need it”

# The Story of the Good Samaritan illustrates mercy

Luke 10

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

# Mercy Contrasted with Justice

Mercy and justice met on Calvary

Being merciful helps us to forgive; being unmerciful causes us to become bitter people

Jesus told the parable of the Unforgiving Servant to illustrate mercy

# Mercy Contrasted with Justice

Mercy gets **involved**

Mercy is not just a humanitarian thing, it is  
a divine transaction

Happy are the merciful for they shall  
receive the mercy of God

That is the truth of Christmas

"Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall receive  
mercy."