

NINTH SUNDAY IN KINGDOMTIDE

August 7, 2022

THE HOW OF HAPPINESS

8 PRINCIPLES FOR POWERFUL LIVING

“HAPPY ARE THE MERCY MAKERS”

Scripture: St. Matthew and Titus (CEB)

St. Matthew 5:1-7

¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. ² He taught them, saying:

³ “Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.”

⁴ “Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad.”

⁵ “Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.”

⁶ “Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full. “

⁷ “Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy.”

Titus 3:4-7

⁴ But “when God our savior’s kindness and love appeared, ⁵ he saved us because of his mercy, not because of righteous things we had done. He did it through the washing of new birth and the renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ which God poured out upon us generously through Jesus Christ our savior. ⁷ So, since we have been made righteous by his grace, we can inherit the hope for eternal life.”

~ SERMON NOTES ~

Of all the principles of true happiness that Jesus talks about in Matthew 5, this one is probably the easiest to understand - “Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy.”

As we consider this Beatitude, I have found myself asking, “What are the key ingredients that combine to make up the quality of mercy?” Of course, there can be many. For now, let’s consider these three key ingredients:

1. A Key Ingredient of Mercy is _____.
One of the most powerful words in Hebrew is *chesedh*, translated *mercy*. Empathy is indeed a beautiful thing. It is the launching pad for the quality of mercy. God is a merciful God who wants us to be merciful people.

2. A Key Ingredient of Mercy is _____.
The key to being merciful is just that – to see everyone we meet, whatever their age or station in life, as a person of value, a person for whom Christ came, and to see them with generous and gracious eyes.

3. A Key Ingredient of Mercy is _____.
Are you a mercy-maker? True happiness accepts the mercy God has bestowed upon us with no strings attached...and then turns around and shows that same mercy with others.

