

Title: Eleemon

Text: Matthew 5:7

This beatitude hardly seems as revolutionary as the others, and is therefore easier for us to accept. But when it was spoken, it was as drastic as the others in its overtruning of accepted standards. The Romans despised pity. The Greeds looked the other way at compassion. The Pharisees were harsh in their self-righteousness: they showed little mercy (see 23:23) Besides, the commonly accepted explanation of suffering saw in it only the deserved punishment for sin. So Jesus here took sharp issue with his world.

The word Jesus used and is translated as "mercy" is one rich in meaning. It is the Greek word "Eleemon". It describes "the highest of all possible types of friendship." Jesus gave to ^{The Word} "mercy" a meaning greater than it ever had had before, and certainly far greater than it has today.

To us, the word "mercy" means "teander-hearted" - referring to the person who is moved to tears by sadness or pain. This is a very weak defination. For example: a person may weep easily, yet his tears have no meaning or value. They are like a steamboat that has to stop after every whistle to ^{Forward} generate enough steam to move ^{again}. One blast on the whistle and its driving power is exhausted. There are many people like this steam boat. Through tears and emotion all driving power excapes. They are rendered useless and can offer no further help. They are like the person going to a play. The drama is so moving that it causes ~~them~~ them to cry. Yet, they remain utterly indifferent to the fact that there suffer is waiting outside in the bitter breezing cold. To be merciful includes giving to others, yet one may subscribe to all good causes and still not be merciful.

Tender-hearted'

What then does it mean to be merciful? Aristotle we are told, regarded mercy as a disturbing emotion, something to be gotten rid of before facing the practical concerns of life. Greek tragedy evoked intense pity; the citizens were purged of emotion - dehydrated - so that they could be cool, even ruthless, in dealing with actual life situations. Even today, literature, movies, television, and sometimes church services, become outlets for emotions too upsetting for the workaday world. *amt*

~~But there is more to this beatitude than that.~~ For Jesus, mercy must be the motive of action. When we speak of the Christian spirit, the Christlike life, we reserve that phrase for someone who has been forgiving, compassionate, long suffering, and kind. To be merciful is to be brotherly. *you see* It is not the opposite of being just. The good Samaritan was more than moved with emotions; he was moved to practical helpfulness. It was not a question of keeping or breaking a law; it was simple loving-kindness - intelligent and compassionate. To be merciful is to look upon others - even those whom we dislike - with the attitude of Christ. That means that we shall be kind in our judgments, slow to condemn, and quick to commend. The good Samaritan will be remembered *He saw a need and took action* not because he was a good physician, but because he was merciful. And God has called us to give spiritual sympathy and encouragement, as well as material help to our brother.

However, the word mercy means more than mere sympathy. It means *more* ~~for~~ than feeling sorry for someone or something. Mercy has more of the meaning of the word empathy. Empathy means the ability to get right inside another person's skin so that you can see things with his eyes, think things with his mind, and feel things with his feelings.

I hope by now, that you understand that mercy means more than an emotional wave of pity. It means a deliberate identification with the other person so that you are literally going through what he is going through. Then you can move with some kind of meaningful action.

Jesus came as a man; He came seeing things with the eyes of a man, feeling things with the feelings of a man, thinking things with the mind of a man. God knows what life is all about, because God came right inside life. Queen Victoria was a close friend of Principal Tulloch and Mrs. Tolluch . Prince Albert died and Queen Victoria was left alone. About the same time Principal Tulloch died and Mrs Tulloch was left alone. On afternoon Queen Victoria came to call on Mrs. Tulloch. When the Queen was announced Mrs. Tulloch struggled to rise from a couch where seh was resting and to curtsy. The Queen stepped forward: "My dear," ~~she~~ she said, "don't ~~wise~~ rise. I am not coming to you today as a Queen to a subject, but as one woman who has lost her husband to another." And that is just what God did; He came to you and to me, not as a remote, detached, isolated, majestic God; but as one human being to another. The supreme example of the mercy ^{and love} of God is the coming of God in Jesus Christ. *for you and for me*

We learn to be merciful, creative and outgoing in our love by living with Christ, and by inviting Him to live in us. We can never show true Christian mercy apart from Christ. For it is Christ who work through us his love to perform. Have you ever noticed how ones attitude conditions the attitude of others. Friendliness creates friendliness. It is only those who show Christian mercy who will in the end receive the mercy of God. And if people are to be wone to ^{Jesus Christ} God they must see something of the love, compassionate, and mercy of God in the way we, who call ourselves Christians, live, act, and relate.

(quote poem of morning message)

*you are writing each day a gospel for men
make sure that the writing is true
For the only gospel most people ever read
is the gospel according to you*

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

Blessed is the person who can ^{get right inside of others so that he can} understand the feelings of others, for he will then know that that is what God in Jesus Christ has done for him