



SERMON NOTES

WALKING AMONG THE DEAD - PART III

A Study of Matthew 5

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We discover that: living with godly character in a godless culture is what distinguishes us from the Walking Dead.

Matthew 5:1-8 (NIV)

1 Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, **2** and he began to teach them, saying: **3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **4** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. **5** Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. **6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. **7** Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. **8** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Thesis: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled.” (v. 6)

Antithesis: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy” (v. 7)

Righteousness by itself can easily turn into Pharisaic self-righteousness. Therefore righteousness must be balanced with mercy.

Another word for righteousness is justice. As Jesus People we are concerned about justice for others.

The Lord Jesus in the Gospels expressed mercy toward others. Jesus invited Himself to be the social guest at the house of a despised little tax collector (Luke 19:1-10). He healed lepers (Mark 1:41), taught the illiterate multitudes, was moved with compassion and healed the sick, delivered those who were mercilessly tormented by demons (Mark 5) and relieved the hunger of thousands with a boy’s small lunch (Matt. 14:14-21). Jesus gave sight to the blind (Matt. 20:34), made the lame to walk (John 5:2-9), and raised the dead (Luke 7:2-15). His answer sent back to John the Baptist about His identity and ministry, summarize the sphere of His mercy.

“Go and report to John the things you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news preached to them” Luke 7:22 HCSB

Mercy doesn’t mean we tolerate wicked people.

Romans 13:3-4 (NKJV), For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. **4** For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

Lethal force is sanctioned in Scripture when justly administered. Also, those who kill in self-defense or the defense of others are guiltless.

Exodus 22:2 (NLT), "If a thief is caught in the act of breaking into a house and is struck and killed in the process, the person who killed the thief is not guilty of murder."

Matthew 18:33 (NLT), "Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?"

Grace is God giving us what we don't deserve forgiveness and mercy is God withholding what we do deserve, punishment!