

Channels of Love and The Catheterized Heart

Chapter 6

Audio lesson: Sermon on the Mount 6



Objective: To understand the fifth and sixth beatitudes and learn what it means to be merciful and to have a pure heart. (Text: Matthew 5:1-8)



Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

—Matthew 5:7-8

The word “mercy” means “unconditional love.” When David writes in Psalm 23:6 that mercy will follow him all the days of his life, the word he uses for “follow” actually means “pursue.” God’s unconditional love will pursue David all of his life. This is the kind of love for others that we must have too, if we are to be like God.

When we are merciful, our motives are often questioned. That’s because people show love with all sorts of motives, many of them selfish. Unconditional love is hard to understand, especially for people who have never seen it before. When we love unconditionally, as God loves us and not from selfish motives but because the risen Christ lives within us, we become channels of His love. Our motives are pure.

1. The fifth beatitude is “Blessed are the _____, for they will be shown _____.”

2. **True** or false? Jesus desires that His disciples will become channels of unconditional love.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

3. What does God’s mercy mean for us?

- a. **He withholds from us punishment we deserve.**
- b. He loves us as long as we obey Him.
- c. He gives us blessings we do not deserve.
- d. He waits until we are perfect to bless us.

4. Read Lamentations 3:22-23. How often is God’s mercy and compassion renewed?

- a. **Every day**
- b. Every week
- c. Every month
- d. Every year

5. Read 1 John 4:16. What word does John use to describe God?
- Judgment
 - Righteousness
 - Holiness
 - Love**

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

—Lamentations 3:22-23

We have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

—1 John 4:16

6. From the following list, underline the characteristics of a disciple who is “merciful.”

Loving

Self-righteous

Judgmental

Patient

Eager to bless

Forgiving

Selfish

Prejudiced

7. The sixth beatitude is “Blessed are the _____ for they shall _____.”
8. True or **false**? Disciples of Jesus expect something from others in return for their mercy.
9. Read 1 John 1:7-9. According to these verses, how are our hearts cleansed?
- By hard work
 - By confessing our sins to God**
 - By performing a ritual
 - By resolving to avoid sin

If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

—1 John 1:7-9

10. How does someone who is pure in heart see God? (*choose all that apply*)
- God will work in that person's life.**
 - God will draw that person closer to Him.**
 - God will show that Jesus lives in that person.**
 - That person will recognize God's love in others.**



Would others describe you as “merciful”? How can you be more merciful? What motives do you have in your relationships with others? Are they truly an expression of Jesus’ pure love?



Thank God for His mercy and confess any sins to Him that you need to confess. Ask Him to cleanse your heart and to give you opportunities to show His mercy to others.



Going Deeper

1. What was Jesus' strategy in the Sermon on the Mount? _____

2. Why can the second set of four beatitudes not be learned and practiced in isolation? _____

3. Explain the difference between conditional and unconditional love. _____

4. Which people in your life do you love conditionally? _____

5. Which people in your life do you love unconditionally? _____

6. What would enable you to love more people, especially acquaintances in the workplace, unconditionally? _____

7. What difference would that make to them? To you? _____

8. What is the logical division between the first four and second four beatitudes? _____

9. What does "pure in heart" actually mean? _____

10. How does the word *catharsis* relate to the beatitude “*pure in heart*”? _____

11. Why do the merciful need a pure heart to pass God’s love to others? _____

12. How can you make sure your love is the real, unconditional love of God? _____

13. In what ways has God shown His unconditional love to you? _____

14. In Psalm 51, David cries, “Create in me a new heart, O God.” Why is this necessary in order to channel the unconditional love of God to others? _____
