**Sunday, September 25, 2022**

Message Notes

**What Makes A Church? – Part 3 of 5**

*Revolutionary Mercy*

**Matthew 5:1-6**

**What did Jesus come to do?**

**What do we make of the Sermon on the Mount?**

—Is it just for a limited time?

—Is it only for those a select few?

—Is it meant to be impossible, so that we’d see how far we fall short?

**Christianity as a “Way” of life vs. a moral or religious code**

**Does God reign? (God reliance vs. Self Reliance)**

Do I really believe I have greater knowledge than God?

Do I really believe that I have greater resources that God?

Do I really believe that I care more about my situation that God does?

**The beatitudes are not a set of rewards…”if you do this, then you get this”**

**The beatitudes are the characteristics of God’s “blessed people”.**

**Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.—Matthew 5:7 (NIV)**

**Mercy is “compassion for people in need.”—John Stott**

**“Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.” —Matthew 5:8 (NIV)**

**Does your love have strings? What is your motivation?**

**What is the condition of your heart?**

**Does what you project to the world match the true condition of your heart?**

**Being “pure in heart” is that your primary motivation is God’s will for your life.**

**That’s what it means to “see God"**

**So what do mercy and purity of heart have in common?**

**God is creating a “Kingdom Society” that is meant to contrast with the world. BUT We are not fighting a culture war.**

**How does the Jesus Way compel you?**

**What breaks your heart? Who are you compassionate towards?**

**What is your motivation to live the blessed life?**

**We do not walk alone, but we are obligated to each other,**

**23**Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. **24**And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **25**not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV)**