

Some time ago we talked on the first three beatitudes. They go in threes. In the first we noticed that a person who renounced himself was deathless and happy.

In the second we noticed that he who suffers in world participation is happy.

In the third the terrible meek one deathless and happy and possess the earth.

Now we come to the next trio

1. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after Righteousness.
2. Blessed are the merciful.
3. Blessed are the pure in heart

In ver 6. Jesus uses the strongest cravings of human beings - hunger and thirst - to characterize the passion for goodness which is found in the man who strives and wants to be perfect.

This hunger for righteousness eats up every other little hunger.

The first trio end not in quietude but in quest - now that self has been renounced in the first beatitude the righteousness that will now be "quested" as you see, will not be self-righteousness.

But even this righteousness needs correction by the next one: "Blessed are the merciful."

Some righteous people are not merciful toward the failings of other people. This righteousness is hard and pharisaical. Righteousness without mercy produces indigestion, countenance. Ill P.C. got off train and folk said are you the new incumbent? "No it is dyspepsia that makes me look this way"

The voice of Sinai saying 'Thou shalt not' must be tempered by Calvary saying, 'Father forgive them.'

Self president of a college was silent about the conduct of the students - for this same conduct students in another college had been dismissed - so one a.m. he said, "I wanted to dismiss you but the voice of the Lord said forgive you." Every student was in tears, and too mercy without righteousness mushy.

But these two together make a third
The pure in heart

Def. "A passion for righteousness and a compassion for men."

To be pure in heart is really to be undivided in heart.

not only unshinied between good and evil but also between virtue & virtue. It does divide any portion with any evil. Further it does not divide righteousness and mercy giving itself to one and then to the other but blends them into purity - So the heart that is pure is mercifully righteous and righteously merciful - He sees God. He who seeks law and shows love sees God.

It is well that the seeing of God is placed at this stage. Hinduism says: "Blessed are the renounced in spirit for they shall see God" This is our first beatitude - just the first step up to a vision of God.

Here is the Gospel process:

Renounced in spirit.
Suffering for others
meek inheriting the earth
Hungering for righteousness
Thirsting " "
merciful " "
Pure in heart

Blessed are those for
they shall see God

These qualities fit man for better relationships with man so that God is seen not a part from life but in the midst of human relationships. It means fullness not emptiness.

I know this seeing of God means
pure heart (undivided heart)

merciful

hungering

meekness

Self-renouncing

Suffering for others but it is
worth it all.

See p 78

Judson

