

## **Real Christianity: The Sermon on the Mount**

*#6: You Will See a Merciful God*

Matt 5:7-8

**Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them! Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God!** (Matt 5:7-8 GNT)

We will have the privilege of seeing and meeting a merciful God.

### **A) The Mercy of Christ at His Return**

When will we personally experience this mercy we are promised? At least twice. First when Jesus Christ reveals Himself to the world. Matthew 24:29-31 This is clearly describing the return of Christ and the rapture or rescuing of the church. Why is Jesus taking what's left of the Christians off the Earth when He returns? Because God is about to punish the whole Earth with His wrath.

We read a description of this very same event in Revelation 6:12-17)

Revelation then describes the punishment and wrath of God by describing the bowl and trumpet judgments. I have said before that too many Bible teachers today are making the mistake of defining the Great Persecution as the wrath of God. When will the Day of the Lord wrath begin in the Endtimes? Revelation 8:7 tells us: **The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.** (Rev 8:7). That's when you know the wrath of God has begun. If you are still on Earth when a third of it is burned up because of fire that comes from the sky, then you know you are damned forever.

Don't underestimate the mercy we will receive by being rescued from this Earth before God punishes it. This is one reason the Apostle Peter tells us: **"Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world"** (1 Peter 1:13). And I believe this is one aspect of Christ's promise in the Beatitudes that **Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them!** (Matt 5:7) Jesus promises us that We will have the privilege of seeing and meeting a merciful God.

### **B) The Mercy of Christ at the Great White Throne**

There is another event recorded in Scripture where we will see Christ. It is called the Great White Throne judgment. (Matt 25:31-34)

Did you notice that Jesus says nothing about the sins of His sheep? We will be shown great mercy at the Great White Throne Judgment. And this will become all the clearer to us when we see and hear what He will say to the goats. Verses 41, 46.

This will be another event in which we will be shown mercy, as Jesus promised in the Beatitudes. **Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them!** (Matt 5:7). We will have the privilege of seeing and meeting a merciful God.

### **C) Meeting God the Father**

Finally, in the Beatitudes, Jesus said, **"Happy are the pure in heart, for they will see God"** (Matt 5:8). I believe He is specifically referring to God the Father. When will this happen? After the creation of the new Earth and the Father has come to that Earth. I believe seeing God the Father is described in (Rev 21:3-4) **I heard a loud shout from the throne, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and**

**they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes.**

There may be no greater privilege possible for mere human beings. Look at what the Apostle Paul writes about seeing God the Father. (1 Tim 6:15-16) **God, [the Father] the blessed [makarios: "Happy!"] and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.** Right now, no human can see God the Father. This is why even Moses only saw God's back.

In Revelation 22 we read: **The throne of God [the Father] and of the Lamb [God the Son] will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face** (Rev 22:3-4 NIV).

And listen to what David said will happen at the resurrection. (Psalm 17:5). **Because I am righteous, I will see you. When I awake, I will see you face to face and be satisfied.**

You Christian will see God face to face. Will you think about that for a moment? The English poet John Donne wrote this about that day: "No man ever saw God and lived; and yet, I shall not live till I see God; and when I have seen him I shall never die."

When you are face to face with God the Father, do you know what will draw your gaze? Do you know what you will stare at and not be able to stop? His eyes. You will see the eyes of God. You will see into the eyes of your Father, the One who has loved you since before He created the world.

Do you know what else will happen when you see God? Remember what Jesus shouted from the throne as recorded in Revelation 21? **"Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."** (Rev 21:4)

Christian, you are not only going to see the face and eyes of God your Father, but I believe He is going to reach out with his hand and gently touch your face and wipe tears from your eyes. God is not only going to look into your eyes, He will literally, physically, and gently wipe tears from your eyes.

The question is why will there be tears when you see God? Some unfortunately claim that these are tears of shame and regret because our former sins will be known. Christian, when you see God, you will stand before Him completely pure and blameless. (Col 1:20-22)

Neither will you be afraid. 1 John 4:16-18

Then what kind of tears will you have when you see and meet God the Father? these tears will be tears of joy! Psalm 16:11, Job 33:26.

### **Discussion ?'s**

- 1) What 2 times did we discuss that we will see God? How will we experience God's mercy at those times?
- 2) Why was it claimed that Matt 24:29-31 describes the return of Christ and Rapture of the Church? What similarities do you see here with the Rapture's description in 1 Thess 4:13-17? How does 2 Thess 2:1-3 confirm that the Rapture happens after the Great Persecution?
- 3) How can we know that we will be blameless when we meet Christ at the Great White Throne? Revelation 20:11-15 is another description of this event. How will "the books" reveal God's mercy on your life?
- 4) What will it be like to meet God the Father "face to face"?
- 5) What was most meaningful to you about the Sunday message?