

He that hears THESE sayings

- Mt 7:24-28

- **Hear** these sayings of Mine and **does them**:

- Like a wise man who built house on rock

- did not fall because it was built on the rock

- **Hear** these sayings of Mine and **does not do**:

- Like a foolish man who built house on sand

- it did fall because it was built on sand

- Each “*saying*” is stone in our foundation.

The more stones we have the more solid our foundation. Each missing stone is still sand.

Weakening and threatening the whole.

Stones in Our Foundation

- *Blessed – Fortunate, highly favored, honored*
- 3 "Blessed are **the poor in spirit,**
- For **theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- 4 Blessed are **those who mourn,**
- For they shall **be comforted.**
- 5 Blessed are **the meek,**
- For they shall **inherit the earth.**
- 6 Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness,** For they shall **be filled.**
- For if these things are yours and abound, **they make you to be** 2Peter 1:8
- Look no further! This is why we are Blessed!

Blessed Are the Merciful

- *Blessed are the merciful,*
- *For they shall obtain mercy.*
- *Matt 5:7*

Standard Definition

- *“eleos... mercy; kindness or good will toward the miserable and afflicted, joined with a desire to relieve them; 1. of men towards men... 2. of God towards men... 3. the mercy of Christ, whereby at his return to judgment he will bless true Christians with eternal life... (Thayer, p. 203-204; 1656)*
- First: Tender feelings of compassion or pity
- Second: The desire to relieve them compels us to do something to help them.
- If either of these is lacking ... not merciful.

Deeper Definition

- “In Greek, *eleos*(*mercy*) is a *pathos*(*strong emotion*), ...the emotion roused by contact with an affliction which comes undeservedly on someone else. ... in the face of the unfortunate this emotion is an *eleein* which includes the elements of both awe and mercy... in this sense of mercy, sympathy is very common. (Kittel Vol 2 p. 477-487)

- Apathy— (*a-pathos*) — “a”— (*alpha-privative*) negates *pathos* — “*feel nothing*”
- Sympathy— (*sum -pathos*)—“sum”— (preposition “*with,*” (*Latin: com-passio*)— “*feel strongly with*”
- Empathy—(*em-pathos*)—“em” — (preposition “*in*” + *pathos*)— “*feel strongly within*”

- *For we do not have a High Priest who **cannot sympathize with our weaknesses**, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that **we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.** Heb 4:15-16*
- This passage has it all!
- First, ...*sympathy*... *that will ... obtain mercy*...
- Second, *Obtain Mercy that will find grace to help in time of need.*

Mercy Vs Apathy

- The Good Samaritan – Mercy Lk. 10:30-37
- Priest and Levite ... Apathy ... Just passed by
- Samaritan ... Pity & Compassion ... Mercy
- *33 And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.*
- Prodigal Son – No Mercy / compassion Lk. 15:11ff
- his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, was lost and is found.

This May be the Plank in our Eye!

- *"Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. Mt. 7:1-5*

If We want to be Merciful...

- We must leave *apathy* and **contempt** and grow into *empathy* and *sympathy*.
- If Jesus could be **without sin** and do this, there is **no excuse** if we cannot. When we don't share their weakness we don't understand how they could be tempted with so *vile* (in our eyes).
- We can still share anguish and sorrow, because we have experienced it in our own temptations.
- *All things therefore whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them: for this is the law and the prophets.*

Mt. 7:12

Key to Mercy – Back to Righteousness

- He **can have compassion** on those who are ignorant and going astray, since **he himself is also subject to weakness**. ³ Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. Heb 5:2-4
- No apathy b/c he also has weaknesses.
- No one shares all mine, but all are common.
- No temptation has overtaken you except such as is **common to man**; 1 Cor 10:11
- Remember Righteousness: “That’s Mine” & “That’s Not Fair” ... Just add sym– & em–pathy
- Mercy founded on ability to see they are like us.

They Shall Obtain Mercy

- *For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. James 2:13*
- *"Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. Mt 7:1-2*
- *"Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Lk. 6:37-38*

An Important Stone in Our Foundation

● *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.*
Col 3:12-15

- Have we put these on?
- Is this our foundation in dealing with others?