

Sermon Notes
“It is better to give than to receive”
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This sermon was presented to the Romani Church of Living God in Radvanka Ukraine April 27, 2011. This week we distributed gift baskets and wanted to use them as a tool to teach about the importance of knowing that no matter how poor our circumstances, no matter how much poverty is in our lives, as children of God, He will provide for us. There is always some out there in worse circumstances than you. And the worst circumstance is the life of the unsaved, the lost. As believers we need to embrace this teaching from Jesus and let it keep us humble and prevent the “what about me” mentality taking over. Trust that God will be your provider.

Matthew 5:3 *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

1. One who is deeply sensible of his spiritual poverty and wretchedness apart from God.
2. The greater part of mankind is insensible of their condition; but think themselves rich, and increased with goods: there are some who are sensible of it, who see their poverty and want, freely acknowledge it, bewail it, and mourn over it;
3. To be poor in spirit is to have a humble opinion of ourselves; to be sensible that we are sinners, and have no righteousness of our own; to be willing to be saved only by the rich grace and mercy of God;
4. We are not only "poor", but are poor "in spirit". From our acknowledgement of our poverty, we become "beggars". It is this sensibility of our poverty that places us at the door of mercy, and where we must find ourselves knocking there.

Matthew 5:4 *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”*

1. Those that mourn thus shall be comforted. So those that grieve over sin; that sorrow that they have committed it, and are afflicted and wounded that they have offended God, shall find comfort in the gospel.
2. Mourn for sin of self
3. Mourn for the sin of others
4. Without true and deep repentance you cannot expect the full mercy of God.
 - a. **James 4:7-11** *“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. 11 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it.”*
5. Meaning an inward mourning and weeping over the plague of the heart, the impurity of nature, and the various sins of life; after a godly sort, and because contrary to a God of infinite love and grace; in an evangelical way, looking to Jesus, and being affected with the pardoning grace and love of God in Christ.
6. There is a strong suggestion that only when we recognize the suffering of those around us, and place those sufferings above our own, that we cannot receive the true comfort of the Lord.

7. Ultimately, when we focus on our selves we are acting selfishly and in pride.

Matthew 5:5 *“Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.*

1. those who are patient and not easily provoked
2. Those who are more concerned about the welfare of others, knowing that God in heaven will watch over them.
3. Not forcing your needs over that of another’s.
4. Not easy to anger
5. not self seeking

Matthew 5:6 *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

Matthew 5:7 *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*

1. Forgiveness

Mark 11:25- 26 *“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. [“But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.”]*

2. Compassion
3. Let God be the judge

Matthew 5:8 *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

1. Not pure in motive or intention. Not pure in action. But truly pure. Clean. Sanctified.
2. There is only one source of this purity and that is faith in Jesus Christ. Our hearts become pure only through faith and repentance.

2 Timothy 2:22 *“Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”*

Malachi 3:1 *“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts. 2But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. 3He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.*

Matthew 5:9 *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

1. There are people around us who are those who are always complaining.
2. Are you the person to try to help dissolve the situation?

Matthew 5:10 *“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

1. We have talked about this a lot. We have challenged you to go out and share your faith. Do not keep it to yourselves. Be willing to go out into the community and tell others about Jesus.

1 Peter 3:14 *“But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. 17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.*

Matthew 5:11 *“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.*

Act 20:35 *"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

These notes were generated from numerous historical open source commentaries .Some of the source authors include Matthew Henry, John Gill, Albert Barnes, John Wesley, John Darby, Adam Clarke. I have taken the liberty to modernize some of the verbiage and infuse new Spirit inspired understandings.