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*"Christ caring for People  
through People"*

August 8, 2010

**Matthew 5 (New International Version)**

*<sup>1</sup>Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup>and he began to teach them saying:*

*<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

*<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

*<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

*<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

*<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

*<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*

*<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*The first four beatitudes represent the saints as conscious of their need of salvation. The next three are of a different kind--representing the saints as having now found salvation, and conducting themselves accordingly.*

*'You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.'* (The Message)

"At the moment"

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Caring or being cared for?

Psalm 18:25 *"With the merciful Thou wilt show Thyself merciful."*

As Faussett, ( a Bible commentator) says "not that our mercifulness comes absolutely first. On the contrary, our Lord Himself expressly teaches us that "God's method is to awaken in us compassion towards our fellow men by His own exercise of it, to us." In the parable of the unmerciful debtor, the servant to whom his lord forgave ten thousand talents was naturally expected to exercise the same compassion by forgiving his fellow servant's debt.

Wow! The chicken and egg question is finally resolved. We are the eggs. And God in his mercy is the one who made us who we are supposed to be. We are called to be 'God's good eggs'. And as the Old Testament says he gathers us under his wings as a mother hen would gather her chicks.

According to the view given in Scripture, "the Christian stands in a middle point, between a mercy received and a mercy yet needed."

While he is ever to look back on the mercy received as the source and motive of the mercy which he shows, he also looks forward to the mercy which he yet needs, and of which he is assured.

God's mercy and compassion will always be greater than ours. Yet we give others a glimpse of his blessing when are kind and compassionate towards them. May you each receive a special portion of God's blessing this summer and so pass it on to those you meet.

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin