The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
Matthew 5:3-10

I. In the Beatitudes, Jesus gives us two ways to deal with difficult people: demonstrate mercy and pursue peace.

A. Mercy
   
   1. We all need mercy for something.
   
   2. The church is for sinners and is made up of sinners.
      a) When dealing with others, we should demonstrate mercy, not legalism.
      
      Mt. 23:23; Eph. 2:3-5
   
   3. God is rich in mercy.
   
   4. We all need to remind ourselves that we are sinners, responding in kindness and mercy to others who sin.
   
   5. Reward for mercy
      a) The more we give the more we get.
      
      Prov. 11:17; Job 42:10

B. Peace


   2. How are we to be peacemakers?
      
      a) Start our days with prayer and praise.
      b) Ask God to work in us and through us to bless others and to be a peacemaker.
      c) Go through your day. When acted on, react as kindly and quietly as possible.
      d) Don’t fight fire with fire, but with God’s Spirit who is at work in us.

   Challenge: Love is the identifying mark of Christianity.

   May God help us to love, to demonstrate mercy, and pursue peace!