

The Beatitude Series
“Blessed are the Merciful”
Sunday, May 6, 2017
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Note: Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the NKJV Bible.

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL.

Matthew 5:7 “Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.”

- Mercy is one of God’s core attributes and showing mercy one of the requirements to receiving it.
- The merciful will be sustained by the mercy of God.
- To be merciful is to be a helper of the helpless.

DEFINITION OF MERCY

- First of all, we need to understand that it’s not primarily a feeling.
- Greek Word 1656—*eleos* – Compassion (human or divine, especially active: kindness or good will toward the hurting and needy, joined with a desire to help them)
- So although mercy is often motivated by feelings, it is not really about how you feel but what you do.

Charles Swindoll – “It does not mean only to sympathize with a person in the popular sense of the term; it does not mean simply to feel sorry for someone in trouble. It means the ability to get right inside the other person’s skin. Clearly this is much more than an emotional wave of pity; this demands a deliberate effort of the mind and of the will. It denotes a sympathy which is not given, as it were, from the outside, but which comes from a deliberate identification with the other person, until we see things as he sees them, and feel things as he feels them.”

MERCY IS AT THE HEART OF GOD.

"And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion" Exodus 33:19 (NIV).

- The first thing GOD wants Moses to know is that he is merciful and compassionate.
- God is holy; God is love; God is mercy.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of mercies and God of all comfort**, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” (Emphasis added)

MERCY SHOWS ITSELF THROUGH FORGIVING OTHERS.

- The struggle is that we want justice not mercy.
- To forgive means giving up our sense of justice.

Jerry Bridges in The Practice of Godliness, writes, “Forgiveness cost God his Son on the cross, but what does it cost us to forgive one another? Forgiving costs us our sense of justice. We want to see ‘justice’ done, but the justice we envision satisfies our own interests. We must realize that justice has been done. God is the only rightful administrator of justice in all of creation, & his justice has been satisfied. In order to forgive our brother, we must be satisfied with God’s justice and forgo the satisfaction of our own.”

- Justice was already served when Jesus died on the cross.

MERCY SHOWS ITSELF THRU HELPING THOSE IN NEED.

Scripture is full of exhortations and examples of caring for the needy.

Proverbs 14:21 “He who despises his neighbor sins; But he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.”

Proverbs 14:31 “He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.”

Acts 4:34-35 “Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.”

There are needy people all around us.

- We've got our own Calcutta right here.
- They work with you. They live on your street.
- Mercifully reach out and touch them – be the hand of God extended and meet their needs – give to our Benevolence Fund to help meet the needs in our church and city.

BEING MERCIFUL IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT.

- We have to get involved.
- Excuses: Too busy, too many commitments, too much responsibility, ‘to do’ list is too long.
- We hurry and rush to get things accomplished so we can hurry and rush to accomplish more.
- Don’t have time to be merciful

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY.

Do you want to receive mercy? Then you need to show it.

Luke 6:35-36 “But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

- The Mercies of God is the foundation upon which we present our lives to Him.

Lamentations 3:22-25 “Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I hope in Him!’”

- Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed!