

## BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL GRACE & POWER: LIVING THE BEATITUDES SERIES

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**TEXT: Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.**

INTRO: Jesus' Kingdom is an upside-down Kingdom. In the Gospel of Matthew, the good news is that Jesus is King over the nations, and this is what His Kingdom looks like. The poor in spirit will inherit the Kingdom; those who mourn will be comforted. The meek will inherit the earth, and those who hunger and thirst for justice will be satisfied. And today we want to look at the fifth beatitude: "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy."

This beatitude also deals with the question, "What is the right way to treat people in the New Covenant?" Jesus exhorts us to choose the path of mercy.

### I. GOD IS A GOD OF MERCY

#### A. SCRIPTURES ON MERCY

- 1. "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).**
- 2. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-5).**
- 3. Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment! (James 2:13).**
- 4. "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).**

#### B. DEFINITION OF MERCY

- 1. The Hebrew word for mercy is *hesed*, which means "lovingkindness," the covenant-keeping grace and mercy of God. Kindness.**
- 2. The Greek New Testament uses the word *eleeo*, which means "have compassion, feeling sympathy."**



**3. Mercy is being moved by compassion toward another person, that leads one to do an act of kindness towards that person.**

**4.** Justice is getting what you deserve. Mercy is not getting what you deserve. Mercy is receiving kindness and forgiveness when you deserve judgment. Justice and mercy go hand in hand; they are two sides of the same coin. If you have justice without mercy, the law can be harsh. But if you have mercy without justice, you have anarchy.

**5.** When someone cuts you off and you see him being pulled over by a police officer for his reckless driving, you say to yourself, “He deserves justice.” But when you get pulled over by a cop, you ask for mercy. I was pulled over for speeding on a Sunday morning, going to HRock Church. I knew I was wrong, but I cried out to God for mercy, and to my amazement, the officer let me go with a warning.

**6.** *Les Miserables*: French investigator Javert’s relentless manhunt of a criminal — Jean Valjean.

**7. Micah 6:8 says to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly before your God.**

**8.** It is interesting that Jesus told us to hunger and thirst after righteousness, and then the next beatitude is “blessed are the merciful.”

## II. GOD’S KINGDOM AGE OF MERCY

**A. Matthew 9:9** As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup> And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup> But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means, ‘*I desire mercy, not sacrifice.*’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” <sup>14</sup> Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?” <sup>15</sup> And Jesus said to them, “The wedding guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. <sup>16</sup> No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. <sup>17</sup> Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”



B. I believe what Jesus is teaching is that the new Kingdom age is an age of mercy. The “new wineskin” is the age of mercy.

**C. DEMONSTRATING MERCY TO THE LOST**

1. Witnessing to the person next to me on the plane from Orlando.
2. Trash collectors in MD.
3. Sue Yim at Magruder High School.

**III. BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL: HOW TO BE A PERSON OF MERCY**

**A. LEARN HOW TO EMPATHIZE**

1. Emotion is a critical part of mercy. There can be no mercy where there is no feeling.
2. One way God uses our pain is to make us able to comfort others (see 2 Corinthians 1:3-6).
3. Train your emotions. Give credence to them. Dwell on them enough to consider how others feel in facing difficult situations: a car accident, divorce, debt, addiction, unemployment, or grief.
4. Actors call it being in the moment — recalling a sad situation to bring up the imprint of that feeling to relive and demonstrate it.
5. I have tremendous compassion for those grieving the loss of a loved one, especially to cancer, because of what I went through when my mother died of cancer.
6. Try to recall a time when you were suffering and to empathize with the person God wants you to show mercy to.
7. Top CEOs of Fortune 500 companies have an excellent EQ and not IQ.

**B. TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE PERSON WHO DESERVES YOUR MERCY**

1. Mercy doesn't only feel with another in a general sense; it moves to understand the particulars. There is an impulse to move into another person's experience, crawl into his skin, walk in her shoes. Consider: Why is the addict addicted? Why does this financial problem exist? Why is that spouse unfaithful? Why is that person involved in destructive behavior?
2. Love believes the best. I try to understand the best in the person who has hurt me. The pastor who fired me had an alcoholic father. His brothers were sports stars and local heroes, whereas my pastor friend dropped out of sports and school. He



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never graduated from college. Coming from that insecure background, with bad theology, he became very controlling and unmerciful toward others. I understand.

3. I was able to truly forgive my dad and remove all judgments from him for abusing me when he confessed how his mother had abused him.

### **C. REPENT OF ANY JUDGMENTS MADE**

1. Judge not, that you be not judged.

2. You reap what you sow. Robert Henderson teaches that the things that hinder prayers are the judgments you may have made toward others.

3. My experience in Toronto.

4. When I repented of judgment toward my dad and leaders, it had an impact on my marriage and my family.

### **D. FORGIVE FROM THE HEART**

1. Moving in empathy and understanding will help you forgive.

2. Know that there is a difference between forgiveness and pardon.

3. There is a blessing that comes with forgiveness.

4. Your prayers will be answered.

5. “If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matthew 6:14-15).

6. People have been healed when they forgave.

### **E. COME IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT AND DO AN ACT OF KINDNESS**

**1. Romans 12:17-21 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

2. We need to come in the opposite spirit. Ask yourself, “How can I bless those who have cursed me?”

3. There are times you need to be released from trying to reconcile. The other party simply may not be in a place to receive. I set up a meeting to invite my former pastor to take part in TheCall DC, but he canceled the meeting. In cases like



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this, we must apply two important verses: “Love with wisdom and discernment,” and “As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

4. Mercy is simply compassion in action. Mercy is more than just feeling sorry for people. It’s more than feeling pity for someone who is down and out. It’s doing something to help alleviate their pain and suffering.

5. Jesus was moved with compassion to feed the hungry multitudes after they had spent all day with Him in the wilderness.

6. Jesus was moved with compassion to heal the leper who came to Him.

7. When Jesus overlooked Jerusalem, He was moved with compassion to intercede for the city.

8. Mercy is love in action.

9. In my view, one of the clearest pictures of mercy in the Bible is the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke chapter 10). We must provide real relief. It’s easier to treat people like a headache — provide them with a quick prayer, a verse, and trite advice to “ride it out; you’ll feel better tomorrow.”

10. Let the church be a place where the mercies of God are ministered in ridiculous fashion.

#### CONCLUSION: RECEIVE GOD’S MERCY

1. You can only give away what you have received.

2. Receive God’s mercy. God saw us in our miserable, lost condition and took pity on us. He knew that sin had rendered us spiritually dead and utterly hopeless. He knew that He was the only one with the power to bring about a remedy. God's remedy was to participate in our sufferings. He did that by sending His Son Jesus Christ into the world to die on a cross to pay the penalty for our sins. The apostle Paul said it this way: “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in transgressions” (Ephesians 2:4-5).

Before we can give away mercy, we have to receive mercy. Have you surrendered your heart to Jesus? Have you received mercy from Jesus?

