



**“Blessed are the Merciful”
Week 5 in a 9-week Series**

Preached: March 23, 2025
Scripture: Matthew 5:7
Series: “The Beatitudes” – Week 5 of 9

SECTION 1 – GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word, “mercy?” Is there a scene in a movie that comes to mind? Maybe a scene from a book? Maybe a scene from your own life?
2. Read Matthew 18:21-35. How does this parable of Jesus help us better understand what Jesus is saying in this Beatitude?
3. What risk is there when you show mercy to others? How does the idea of vulnerability come into play?
4. It is easy to say in our minds – “Look at this guy who gets forgiven and then turns around and is unmerciful to someone who owes him money. I would never do that.” But, if we’re honest, we all do it. Can you think of a time when you received mercy from someone or a time you showed mercy to someone else? How did giving or receiving mercy feel? Was it hard to give it or receive it?

5. Matthew 18:35 seems a bit cruel and hard to reconcile with a God who is all about love. How does this verse still reflect the character of a merciful God? Or does it seem inconsistent?

6. The point of this parable is not that we get mercy by mercy or we get forgiveness by forgiving. The point is that in light of the fact that we have been forgiven for EVERYTHING we have ever done wrong by God, our best response to an unmerciful world is to live out a life of showing mercy to others. Why is this so hard in our day and time?

SECTION 2 – PRAYER

Where do you need Jesus to meet you today as you are gathered together around God's Word? What are the things that we need to extend mercy to others in our everyday lives? If you were to live out that word – mercy – how would your lives look different? Ask for help in that area.

SECTION 3 – SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Likely, if you have lived on the earth for any period of time, at some point along the way, someone wronged you – treated you badly – took something from you – sinned against you. What does showing mercy to the people in your life who have wounded you look like? Identify the name of someone who you still have a hard time showing mercy towards. Lift them in prayer. Ask for God to soften your heart. Spend the week in a conversation with God about this person, and seek God's guidance as to what next steps might look like.

SECTION 4 – THINKING ABOUT MISSION

If the Sermon on the Mount is a playbook for how to live the Christian life, how can we begin to take these words of Jesus and actually live them? How do we embody Jesus as we interact with others based on the reading and study of the Beatitudes? With this specific beatitude in mind, identify one relationship you are in that you might be able to practice this idea of mercy. What would it look like? How might it change that relationship for the better? No one specific comes to mind? Pray about it and see if a name pops in your head.

SECTION 5 – ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In 2024, the Bible Project spent the entire year focused on the Sermon on the Mount. During our study and reflection, I will identify specific resources from them that can

expand your perspective on the ins and outs of the words of Jesus. The following podcast talks about the three beatitudes.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/bibleproject/id1050832450?i=1000644182305>