

Title: Happy Are the Merciful

Passage: Matthew 5:1-7

Summary:

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy (Matthew 5:7)

Key Truths:

- Merciful = "to give help to the wretched, to relieve the miserable"*
- Mercy gives attention to those in misery
- "Mercy is that quality in God's character that directs Him to forge a relationship with people who absolutely do not deserve to be in relationship with Him." (Baker's Dictionary of the Bible)

Parable of the Good Samaritan:

- Mercy sees the need
- Mercy responds internally with a heart of compassion
- Mercy responds externally with practical ways of service
- Mercy happens even when the person in distress is by religion and/or name an enemy

Biblical Definition of Mercy:

- an eye for distress, a heart of compassion, and an effort to help, in spite of enmity. (John Piper)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What does God promise for those who seek mercy? How have you experienced God's mercy in your life?
- What are barriers that may exist to being merciful?
- What are examples of mercy and how may those inspire us to show mercy to others ourselves?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be "doers of the Word." What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Introduction

What would happen if oxygen was removed for 5 seconds?

What would happen if gravity was removed for just one second?

- physicist estimated so much change would occur (every combustion engine would stop, etc.)
- We take for granted so much that is provided on a moment by moment basis.

Passage:

Matthew 5:1-7

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

EXPOSITION

Recap

The Beatitudes is a progression

- realization of God's requirements and standards:
 - Spiritually bankrupt and poor in spirit
 - Mourn over one's sinful state before God
 - Meekness that one must come humbly before God.
 - Then hunger and thirst for God's righteousness.
 - Having received mercy from God, we understand what true mercy is and we can be merciful to others

Merciful - what is it?

- Merciful = "to give help to the wretched, to relieve the miserable"*
- Mercy gives attention to those in misery
- "Mercy is that quality in God's character that directs Him to forge a relationship with people who absolutely do not deserve to be in relationship with Him." (Baker's Dictionary of the Bible)

Psalms 116:5

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

2 Corinthians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

Exodus 34:6

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

Daniel 9:9

To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him

Jonah 4:2

And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

Lamentations 3:22

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Isaiah 55:7

let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Ephesians 2:1-5

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

- God clearly doesn't treat us as we deserve
 - We were objects of wrath in our sin.
 - But God chose to save us
 - Mercy is an outpouring of God's love.
- The expression of God's mercy is in Him forgiving us.
- But isn't God holy and just?
 - Yes, salvation wasn't free.

Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- We receive mercy because of Jesus Christ, who paid for our sin.
- For us to benefit from God's mercy, you must go to the cross of Christ.
 - Recognize you are a sinner.
 - You can bring nothing to the table to save yourself.
 - Then God will show you mercy.
- Grace doesn't stop at forgiveness.
 - It also gives us Christ's righteousness and His inheritance.
 - We become God's son and daughter.
 - Our status before God has been completely changed.
 - We are loved by God, placed among a body of believers, and given His Spirit so we are not alone but empowered to live for Him.

What does it mean to be merciful to others?

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

- Mercy is an action, not merely a feeling of empathy or compassion.

Luke 10 (Parable of the Good Samaritan)

Luke 10:29-37

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

Mercy - practical terms:

- Mercy sees the need
 - Not merely program or ritual
- Mercy responds internally with a heart of compassion
- Mercy responds externally with practical ways of service
 - Mercy is not merely a feeling.
- Mercy happens even when the person in distress is by religion and/or name an enemy

Biblical Definition of Mercy:

- an eye for distress, a heart of compassion, and an effort to help, in spite of enmity. (John Piper)

How do we practice mercy in our day to day lives?

- There are times in life where must uphold the law and discipline is necessary.

Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Hebrews 12:5-7

And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

- Discipline is required at times to teach of God's holiness.
 - There is wisdom to show discipline to turn
- But also consider times of discernment to show mercy to teach of God's mercy.
- How know when to show mercy?
 - By getting as close to Jesus as you possibly can.
- The aim of Scripture is to produce a certain type of person (not a list of do's and don'ts)
 - We must be instruments of justice but also of mercy.

We also show mercy by forgiving others.

- This doesn't mean trust has been fully rebuilt.
- This means to leave things that are hurtful to God.
 - Not hold on to them in your heart that leads to bitterness.

Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

- We are not to keep track of wrongs but instead forgive.
 - Not to dwell on an incident.
 - Not bring up an incident and hold it against them.
 - Not speak with others about what was done in speaking badly of them.

We receive mercy when we come to Christ with your sins.

- You can never pay off the debt and guilt of sin.
- God's mercy will set you free.

2 John 1:3

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.