

The Beatitudes
“The Merciful”
The Week of May 12, 2024
Matthew 5:7

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

- What do you think Jesus mean by “**mercy**”?

- Describe the relationship between **being merciful** and **receiving mercy** in this verse.

- What things do we risk when we show mercy to others?

- When is it difficult to **receive** mercy?

- Many merciful people are treated indifferently—or even cruelly—in return. Jesus Christ is the chief example of this. How do you reconcile the way the merciful can be treated with Jesus’ promise in **Matthew 5:7**?

- To press deeper into seeing God’s mercy, read **Matthew 18:21-22**. Is enough ever enough? Are there limits in showing mercy?

- Read **Matthew 18:23-35**. Jesus uses this parable late in the Gospel of Matthew to expound on His teaching in **Matthew 5:7**. What is Jesus teaching about the nature of mercy?

- If we refuse to be merciful to others, what effect does that have on ourselves?

- The Gospel means you are free to keep short accounts and surrender the goal of getting even. That you cannot out-mercy the generous King: You are forgiven much. And that mercy is costly and requires death. How does your heart respond to these reflections on today's Scripture?
- When we don't show mercy, our hearts will demand payment, We become disconnected from God, ourselves & others. Have you ever experienced this?
- Think of someone you struggle to be merciful to in your life. You might identify that person as...
 - Someone who irritates you
 - Someone who does not deserve mercy
 - Someone for whom you have distaste
 - Someone you avoid
 - Someone you attack
 - Someone you gossip about

When you are **not able** to show mercy, what is going on in your heart?

- What conditions do you instinctively want to place on this person before you are merciful toward them? In other words, what does your heart want to require from this person before you release them? What specifically would you desire this person to say or do?
- Pray together in light of this week's beatitude. Ask Jesus for eyes to see how He is merciful to you, and for power to show His mercy to others.