

#BLESSEDseries  
Week 5 outline  
November 7, 2021  
Matthew 5:7

### MERCY MATTERS

3 *"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

4 *Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.*

5 *Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.*

6 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.*

7 *Blessed are the merciful,  
For they will be shown mercy.*

#### I. Mercy Matters (Matthew 18:21-35)

##### A. Our Impression of Mercy Falls Short (Micah 6:8)

1: kindness or help given to those in a less fortunate situation

eg: mercy missions

2: a good or lucky fact occurrence

ie: *"It's a mercy that the building was empty when the fire started."*

We say things like:

-*"he needs to learn his lesson"*

-*"well she must have got what she deserved"*

##### B. God's Definition of Mercy is Greater

-Mercy is God's compassionate forgiveness on display and at work in lives that are neither deserving or meriting of it.

-Grace is receiving what we don't deserve; Mercy is not receiving what we DO deserve

##### C. When Jesus' followers live refusing to be merciful:

1. WE grieve God's heart

2. WE slander His character

3. WE force His hand of judgement on ourselves

MERCY MATTERS TO GOD!

## II. Mercy Moves

### A. God is Rich in Mercy (Eph 2:3-5)

1. He has made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in sin
2. Because of His great love for us

GOD IS RICH IN MERCY

### B. Mercy is like a Muscle

1. It needs stretching and exercise to fully function in our lives
2. Mercy's exercise is called forgiveness
  - a. It's a choice
  - b. Made over and again
  - c. That frees us into Life to the Full

GOD'S MERCY MOVES US TO FORGIVENESS

## III. Mercy Motivates (Mt 5:7, James 2:12-13)

### A. Mercy motivates us to a life of action

1. RECEIVE:  
We're blessed when we receive Christ's merciful work on the Cross
2. REFLECT:  
We're blessed while we reflect the Father's merciful heart to others
3. REMAIN:  
We're blessed as we remain in the Holy Spirit's ministry of mercy in the world

GOD CALLS US TO BE HEAVEN-SENT WITH MERCY  
NOT HELL-BENT ON JUDGEMENT

### B. Mercy *IS* Compassion

Literally... One who has strong bowels

THE MORE WE GRASP HOW MUCH MERCY MATTERS TO GOD  
THE MORE GOD'S MERCY MOVES US TO FORGIVENESS  
AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS MOTIVATES US TO A LIFE OF COMPASSION

- How does a God who is rich in mercy challenge my image of Him and deepen my understanding of our relationship with Him?
- What holds me back from showing mercy? When am I most tempted to withhold mercy? How does Jesus' teaching on forgiveness challenge me in those moments?
- How does Jesus' perfect life of mercy redefine what it means for me to be #blessed this week?