



The Beatitudes

An Inductive Study

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Beatitude #5

Blessed are the Merciful for they Shall Obtain Mercy

The inductive method is an investigative way of studying the Bible. It helps to provide an overall understanding of a passage of Scripture: what it says, the intended meaning to the original audience, and how it can be applied to today.

“Blessed Are the Merciful, for They Will Receive Mercy” (Matthew 5:7)

As mentioned previously, the Beatitudes are character traits of those who have entered the kingdom of heaven by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. We have learned that believers are the poor in spirit—they recognize their lack of righteousness before God. Which leads them to mourn over their sin. They become the meek—those who humble themselves and submit to God’s control. This leads them to the fifth beatitude—hunger for righteousness and the promise of God filling that hunger.

This is a turning point in the Beatitudes. The first four are inner character changes that reflect the believer’s relationship with God; the last four are outward manifestations of those character changes, which reflect the believer’s relationship with others. As believers’ hunger for righteousness, God makes them the merciful (5:7), the pure in heart (5:8), and the peacemakers (5:9). Because of this righteousness, the world persecutes them (5:10). In this study, we will consider the fifth beatitude, “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

The Merciful

Interpretation Question: What is mercy? What is the difference between mercy and grace? What is the biblical definition of mercy?

Mercy appears in the Bible as it relates to forgiveness or withholding punishment. For example, God the Father showed mercy on us when he sacrificed his son, Christ Jesus, on the Cross to pay the price for our sins.

Mercy is goodness offered to those in misery or distress. It often includes compassion or forbearance shown to an offender—somebody that deserves only

justice. Just as Jesus has shown us mercy by withholding punishment. We as Christians and the elect of God should do the same for each other.

We are to be quick to not take offense and quick to reconcile our with those who have offended us.

One of the greatest sins that is attached to Christendom is the inability to show mercy to those who offend. Harboring anger, resentment and unforgiveness of any kind erodes our relationship with the Master. We cannot definitely and with a pure heart declare that we love God if we are not able love those who we see every day. Or use unforgiveness as a way of punishing someone who has offended you. Simply put, this action is not of the Father.

John MacArthur defines mercy as follows:

Mercy is meeting people's needs. It is not simply feeling compassion but showing compassion, not only sympathizing but giving a helping hand.

Mercy is giving food to the hungry, comfort to the bereaved, love to the rejected, forgiveness to the offender, companionship to the lonely.

It is therefore one of the loveliest and noblest of all virtues if practiced the way that Jesus commands.

Question: Why is mercy difficult for the believer?

Activity: Identify areas in your life where you have not shown compassion and mercy to others who have offended you. Put together a personal improvement plan to change the behavior.

Why should we show Mercy?

Jesus said "Blessed are the merciful" for a very good reason. By showing mercy to others, we give thanks to God for the mercy we have been shown ourselves. This simple act of gratitude means far more to God than the most elaborate worship service.

God wants you to be an agent of mercy in the world. Everyone needs mercy because everyone has messed up. We've all hurt other people and made mistakes. Romans 3:23 KJV states "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Which means we all sinned, and we all have hurts, habits, and hang-ups as a result of the mistakes we've made.

Mercy changes the lives of people who have made mistakes, and we who have received mercy freely can change the world around us by showing mercy to others.

Here are four reasons to keep showing mercy to others.

1. Show mercy to others because God has been merciful to you.

The Bible says that God is merciful. It is emphasized all throughout the Bible. There are literally hundreds and hundreds of verses that talk about God's mercy and his love, his compassion, and his grace.

Ephesians 2:4-5 says, "*God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience, he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace you have been saved*" (GNT).

The point of that Scripture is this: God wants me to act in the same way to other people.

2. Show mercy to others because God commands you.

In Micah 6:8, God speaks through the prophet to give us three big instructions for our lives. "*The LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God*" (NLT).

God says if you want a summary of what life's all about, and if you're going to be in his family, this is what's required of you: You need to do what is right with others, to love being merciful to others, and to live humbly in fellowship with God. One third of God's requirement for you on this planet is to learn mercy. Why? Because God is merciful.

3. Show mercy because you're going to need more mercy in the future.

You're not going to be perfect between now and when you get to Heaven. The Bible tells us we cannot receive what we are unwilling to give.

James 2:13 says, "*You must show mercy to others, or God won't show mercy to you . . . But the person who shows mercy can stand without fear at the judgment*" (NCV).

Don't you want to be able to do that on-judgment day? To be able to stand without fear on judgment day? It says the person who shows mercy can stand without fear on the judgment day. It isn't the people who have kept more rules than anyone else who get to face their eternity with the greatest confidence. It is believers who have shown mercy to other people.

4. Show mercy because it produces happiness.

Showing mercy brings happiness. The Bible teaches over and over that the more merciful I am, the happier I'm going to be.

Proverbs 14:21 says, "*If you want to be happy, be kind to the poor; it is a sin to despise anyone*" (GNT).

Being kind to other people actually blesses *you* and makes *you* happier in life. And mercy certainly produces greater joy in those to whom you've shown it.

Would you rather live in a world that is harsh or a world where the people around you value mercy?

You get to help shape a world of mercy around you and allow more people to find freedom from their past when you're willing to show mercy.

More Scripture Support Blessed are those “Who Show Mercy”

Scripture teaches us that God is merciful. Paul called God the “Father of mercies and the God of all comfort” (**2 Cor 1:3**).

Psalm 103:8 says, “The Lord is merciful and gracious” (ESV).

In **Titus 3:5**, Paul states that God saved us not because of our righteous deeds but because of his mercy.

Hebrews 2:17 calls Christ our merciful high priest. The believer is merciful because God is merciful. When a person becomes born again, God’s mercy begins to manifest through his life in various ways. In fact, it will identify him. Now it should be said that this concept—the very idea of mercy—**IS MANDATORY FOR THE BELIEVER**if we want God to show us mercy.

Mercy consists of treating people better than they deserve from us. Forgiveness is a type of mercy. So is aiding someone whom we have no obligation to help or forbearing to exploit someone’s vulnerability.

Mercy, in all these senses, is the driving force of Christ’s incarnation, death, and resurrection. Through him, our sins are forgiven and we ourselves receive aid by the gift of God’s spirit (**1 Corinthians 12**).

How Does God show Us Mercy?

The Spirit’s reason for showing us this mercy is simply that God loves us ([John 3:16](#)).

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life”

The beatitude, blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy, is one of the most selfless acts of grace and mercy the Lord shows the believer.

Mercy at work, has a highly practical effect. We are to aid others to attain their best outcomes, regardless of how we feel about them.

God shows his mercy for those who are suffering through healing, comfort, the alleviation of suffering and caring about those in distress. He acts from compassion and acts with mercy. Jesus performed numerous other miracles for people during times of need. He healed a leper, calmed the sea, and raised Jairus's daughter from the dead. He made whole an infirm man at the pool of Bethesda, healed a deaf man with a speech impediment, and cleansed 10 lepers.

Question – How has Jesus shown mercy to you in your life?

We must remind ourselves that God is a God of mercy everyday of our lives.

Maybe it was a time in your life when you did not get what you truly deserved?

Maybe it was an officer who let you off with a warning or a friend who lent you money knowing you could never pay him back. Mercy is unique in our lives because it is almost as equally hard to give as it is to receive. It is another spiritual blessing for those who believe in the Lord, which affects how we see God and how we interact with each other. The word “mercy” throughout the Bible has been mostly associated with forgiveness and forbearance; it is abundant compassion,

true love and kindness. In fact, it is part of the very nature of God. In 2 Corinthians 1:3, the Apostle Paul refers to the Lord as, “the Father of mercy and the God of all comfort.” He encompasses the entire definition of the word mercy in just His being

and actions! Not only is God merciful, but He calls us to be merciful as well. Luke 6:36 makes this plain by recording Jesus' instruction, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." But it is difficult, and it is costly to extend mercy. Showing others mercy, particularly those we deem underserving, is counter to our sinful natures and can only be done with Christ in our lives!

Ephesians 4:32 makes this calling clear when it says, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Closing Thoughts

As believers, we are called to follow Christ's example and not only forgive one another, but act with authentic compassion and kindness towards each other as well.

The question is, how can you give up your "right" to get even with someone after they have wronged you or let go of someone's debt against you? It can only be done with Christ! Not just because He showed mercy on us so we should do likewise, but also because He is the ultimate authority and will judge the world in the end. He will deal with all the wrongs that have been committed; it is not up to us! In this way, we are blessed! God shows us mercy daily. Each day we live knowing we have been given the ultimate gift of mercy through the love, compassion and forgiveness extended to us on the cross of Christ.

Since we have received God's mercy, we can freely extend it to others as well. This is a double blessing, because when we offer mercy we not only point to Christ and what He has done for us, but we are also more likely to receive mercy from those around us too. This compassion and lightheartedness is the first step in cultivating a forgiving, Jesus-focused world!

Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Mercy qualifies the disqualified and makes the “vessels of mercy” to enjoy Divine Benevolence and Opulence. Romans 9:23 “And that He might make known The Riches Of His Glory on the “Vessels Of Mercy,” which He had afore prepared unto glory.” We Gentile believers are referred to as “Vessels Of Mercy” and as such, God has decided to bestow upon us, His Dignity, Glory and Honor.

Once you give your life to JESUS the Messiah – Who also is the MERCY of God INCARNATED in the flesh, you become qualified to enjoy God’s Supernatural Mercy.

Today, no matter who you are, through the Lord Jesus, you can experience the four levels of God’s Supernatural Mercies.

(1) General Mercy: Psalm 145:9 “The LORD is good to all: and His tender Mercies Are Over All His Works”. Everyone alive today is being sustained by God’s Mercy that is new every morning. You are a Carrier of God’s mercy, if you are alive. His tender mercies are over all His works.

(2) Encompassed Mercy: “Psalm 32:10 “Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusted in the Lord, Mercy Shall Compass Him About” Genesis 32:10 “I am not worthy of the least of All The Mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.”

As you trust in the LORD, God’s mercy will encompass every area of your life. Jacob – a nobody became a Somebody. With the “encompassed Mercy” – you become Something Else.

(3) Sure Mercies: Isaiah 55:3 “Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the Sure Mercies of David”. This is A Covenant Mercy that is a Sure Banker any day, anytime. Things work for you because you are under the covenant of Sure Mercies.

(4) Great Mercy; 2 Chronicles 1:8 “And Solomon said unto God, thou hast shewed Great Mercy unto David my father, and hast Made Me To Reign in his stead”. Luke 1:58 “And her neighbors and her cousins heard how the LORD had shewed Great Mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.” Great mercy causes Great things to happen in your life globally, nationally, and historically.