

Week 6: Those Who Merciful

Jesus is not describing eight different persons but is describing eight different qualities of the same person.

– Darrell Johnson

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Theme:

INTRODUCTION:

Icebreaker: Share a time you got in trouble for something you did as a kid.

Opening Prayer: Have a member of the group offer a prayer to start the meeting.

Example Prayer: *Heavenly Father, teach us what it means to be merciful so that we can extend mercy to everyone around us. In Jesus name, Amen.*

LESSON BEGINS:

WEEK 6 BEATITUDE MEDITATION:

Read Matthew 5:3-11 Have one read the verses, but have the group join in on the bold section.

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

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

Blessed are **the humble**, for they will inherit the earth.

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

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

Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they will see God.

Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are **persecuted because of righteousness**, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

MERCY: Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. (Matthew 5:7)

Quote: Darrell Johnson

"Mercy is not giving what is deserved. This is the way it is used in a court of law. The plaintiff appeals to the judge, 'Have mercy on me – do not give me what I deserve...'"

Discuss:

- What does it mean to be merciful?
- What does it mean to show mercy?
- Share an example of a time you have been merciful or have show mercy?
- How does extending mercy lead to a happy or blessed life?

Quote: Darrell Johnson

"The Gospel of Jesus is just that: God, the Judge, not giving us what we deserve."

- What is it that we deserve?
- Why do we deserve it?
- Why does God extend his mercy on us, even though we do not deserve it?

Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!

QUOTE: Mercy isn't something God does; it is who He is. (Derwin Gray)

WEEK 6 SERMON DISCUSSION:

Week 6 Sermon Discussion Questions:

This week the pastor discussed Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

- What did the pastor say it meant to be merciful?
- What did the pastor say it meant that they will be shown mercy?
- How did the message change or enhance your understanding of this beatitude?
- Did the pastor say anything that was particularly meaningful or encouraging?
- How were you encouraged to apply this beatitude in your daily life or spiritual journey?
- Were there any questions or concerns that you had from the message?

THE GOOD SAMARITAN:

One of the greatest examples of Mercy is found in Jesus' well known story Parable of the Good Samaritan. Read Luke 16:30-35 to familiarize (or refamiliarize) yourself with this story.

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him. When I come back I'll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.'

- Was there anything new or special about this story that stood out to you during this reading?
- How was the Good Samaritan merciful?
- Why was his mercy unexpected?

THE GOOD LIFE VIDEO WEEK 6 (with Derwin Gray)

As you watch the video, ask yourself, "How has this week's teaching changed your understanding on what it means to show and be shown mercy?"

Watch The Good Life video 6: Part 1

Videos can be accessed at www.barmillscommunitychurch.org/goodlifevideos. This is a hidden page, please do not share it with others.

Discuss:

- Derwin Gray changes the name of this parable from "The Good Samaritan" to "The Merciful Samaritan." How does this change your perspective and understanding of this parable?
- Derwin Gray suggests that, "Mercy isn't afraid to touch human suffering." How did the Good Samaritan touch suffering?
- What can we learn from the example of the Merciful Samaritan on what it means to touch suffering?
- Derwin Gray says, "Mercy is not afraid to cross ethnic, cultural, and religious barriers." How does the Good Samaritan show us how this?

Watch The Good Life video 6: Part 2

Videos can be accessed at www.barmillscommunitychurch.org/goodlifevideos. This is a hidden page, please do not share it with others.

- How does Derwin connect the story of the ‘Merciful Samaritan’ with Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross? How is Jesus death the ultimate example of God’s mercy for humanity?
- Derwin talks about mercy is caring for ‘the other.’ What does he mean by ‘the other’?
- Who was ‘the other’ in the Merciful Samaritan’ story?
- Who are some of the people we might see as ‘other’?
- What is keeping you from showing them mercy?

Derwin explains that the Samaritan was an outcast because he was a Jew and a gentile in one body and that the church is called to embody that same description.

- How does the Samaritan embody the church?
- How should that picture inspire and empower us to show mercy to others.

WEEK 6 WRAP-UP

CONSIDER THIS: Mercy costs something. Extending mercy to others is not free. It cost the Samaritan 2 weeks wages and it cost Jesus his life. **What are you willing to spend to show mercy to others?**

Read Matthew 5:3-11 Out loud together as a group.

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

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

Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

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

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Closing Prayer:

- How can the group pray for you and others to have a “blessed” (*makarios*) week?
- **Derwin says that prayer leads us to action.** What merciful action is God calling you to take as you wrap up in prayer this week?

Have a group member close in prayer or provide an opportunity for all members to pray for each other.

For additional insight on being poor in spirit, read the following.

- Chapter 6, ‘Happy are the Merciful’ in *The Good Life*, by Derwin Gray
- Chapter 6 ‘Mercy!’ in *The Beatitudes* by Darrell Johnson