

## Mercy Experienced & Extended

Matthew 5.7

### Overview

#### Setup/Review

- Jesus comes to fulfill the Promises of the 1T/OT
  - We see that in the first verse of Matthew
  - We see this in Matthew's repeated use of showing how Jesus fulfilled specific prophecies (e.g. 1:22; 2:5, 15, 17, 23; 4:14)
- It's important to remember what Jesus isn't and is doing in the Sermon on the Mount
  - He's not holding up some moralistic ethic that if we can somehow attain, then we'll earn God's blessings
  - Jesus is declaring what's true about those in the Kingdom; he's painting a portrait, as it were, of Kingdom citizens

#### Main Idea

- Those who have truly experienced mercy from Christ joyfully extend the mercy of Christ

#### Summary

- What Does It Mean to Be Merciful?
  - Being merciful is not just about our attitude or our actions; it's a sweet mixture of both
  - Mercy is compassion in actions
    - The merciful person stands ready to enter into the misery and messiness of another person's suffering and tenderly desires to use what they have to alleviate those sufferings
  - An absence of mercy reveals a misunderstanding of the gospel
- Why Should We Be Merciful?
  - Being a merciful person is not a condition to receive God's grace, but a necessary consequence of having tasted that grace
    - Mercy is at the center of God's character (cf. Exodus 33:18-19; 34:6)
    - Mercy is at the center of the gospel (Eph. 2:4; 1 Pt. 1:3; Titus 3:4-5; Heb. 2:17)
  - Because Christ has first been merciful to us, and we enjoy and anticipate God's mercy by extending it to others.
- How Do We Go About Being Merciful?
  - As you experience the mercy in Christ, here's how mercy might play out in three areas of our life: physically, spiritually, relationally.
    - *Physically*: This is the type of mercy that meets a person's physical needs (cf. Luke 10; Parable of the Good Samaritan)
    - *Spiritually*: If the gospel is God's great act and manifestation of mercy, we should eagerly speak this mercy to others
    - *Relationally*: We should use our words to build others up (cf. Eph. 4:29-32) and show them mercy in forgiveness (cf. Mt. 18:20-35)

### Questions

**Discussion Starter:** Which one of the Beatitudes do you think clashes most with that which is valued in our culture?

1. Read Matthew 5.1-2. Who is Jesus' audience for this sermon? Why is it important to understand this when studying the Sermon on the Mount?
2. Read Matthew 5.3-12. How do the first four Beatitudes lead to the fifth? What's the danger in not paying attention to context when interpreting the fifth Beatitude?
3. In your own words, what is a definition of mercy?
4. What often makes being merciful hard for us?
5. What's the significance in Jesus saying "Blessed are the merciful" and not "Blessed are those who do a lot of merciful things?"
6. How does Matthew 5:7 (and the Beatitudes as a whole) point us to both the mercy we have received/are receiving and we will receive? How does this compel us to show mercy?
7. How can we show mercy to those in our lives physically? Spiritually? Relationally?
8. Where do you struggle most with being merciful?

**Accountability Question:** *Are there specific areas in your life where you need to be more merciful?  
OR Give God praise where you seen God grow you in this area of your life.*