

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ
SoM, Part 6: Beatitudes, Part 5

Last time...Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness (i.e. Jesus Christ) for they shall be filled.

This time...Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy

Matt 5:7

v7 Blessed

- happy, oh how happy
- fortunate

merciful

- compassionate
- forgiving

shall

- a promise expected...in the future
- determined or planned...in the future
- will...certainty

obtain

- to be given
- to acquire/gain by a request

mercy

- compassion
- forgiveness

When a person does somebody wrong

(as defined by Word of God vs “right in own mind” or social averages),

mercy means

- the wronged person gives what the offender does not deserve...
compassion/forgiveness
- the offender receives what he does not deserve...compassion/forgiveness

Mercy is given to someone by another that has the power to punish or harm

Mercy is received by someone who deserves to be punished or harmed

Mercy is a choice, not a feeling/emotion

The King is merciful

Ex 34:5-7	2 nd set of Tables, post-golden calf and orgy
2 Chron 30:7-9	Judah inviting Israel to Passover (division: no mercy)
Jonah 4:2	Entire book is about God's mercy...to Nineveh and Jonah When Nineveh repented, Jonah had no mercy but God did "I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou <i>art</i> a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil."
Ps 103:8-14	not dealt with us after sins nor rewarded us according to our iniquities...with harm and punishment removed our sins as far as east is from west, mercifully Lord pities...has compassion on...them who fear Him
Ps 108:4a	Thy mercy <i>is</i> great above the heavens...immeasurable
Gen 18	would spare if were 10 righteous, because Ps 108:4a
John 8:1-11	John 3:17-18, because Ps 108:4a
Matt 5:44-45	sun and rain on just and unjust, because Ps 108:4a
Luke 9:51-56	because Ps 108:4a
2 Sam 22:1, 26	this truth spoken by the Spirit to David after David sinned
Ps 32:1	Blessed <i>is he whose</i> transgression <i>is</i> forgiven, <i>whose</i> sin <i>is</i> covered.
Ps 32:10	Many sorrows <i>shall be</i> to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.
Lam 3:22-23	after the destruction of Jerusalem because Judah not repent
Joel 2:11-13	even leading up to DoL
Micah 7:18	Personified when God became man
Heb 2:16-17	
Titus 3:4-7	

He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked
He desires every sinner to come to repentance and receive His mercy

As is the King, so should be the citizens of the Kingdom

- Hosea 6:6 I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings
- Matt 9:13 go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.
- Matt 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.
- Micah 6:8 He hath showed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?
- Prov 3:1-4
Prov 11:17 find favor in relationships
food for the soul...mercy not given results in bitterness
- Heb 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled
- Eph 4:31-32 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
- Prov 19:11 The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and *it is* his glory to pass over a transgression.
- Prov 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.
- Rom 12:20-21 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. (do not respond in kind)
- 1 Thes 5:15 See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*. (do not respond in kind, give mercy)

Matt 18:15-35

Is 40-1=39 lashes mercy, as Jews implemented it (5x Paul, 2 Cor 11:24)?

No, 0 lashes is mercy

Is forgiving 7x mercy?

No, it is magnanimous, but it is not mercy

Does mercy know any bounds?

It goes as far as God's mercy

All wrong/sin is against...God (Ps 51:4)

For the offended...God...mercy is a "give" choice

For the offender...sinners...mercy is a "take" choice...

and then a "give" choice when we are partakers with God, the offended

To receive mercy from the merciful God, the sinner must...

1. repent...agree with God that he was wrong, and show fruit of that agreement

2 Kings 21:9-13, 16

"greatest" sinner in Israel's history

2 Kings 24:1-4

innocent blood – his children, abortion

Ps 106:35-42

gave no mercy, given no mercy

2 Chron 33:9-16

Manasseh repented

Given mercy, forgiven...but consequences are unavoidable

As with repentant David and his son by Bathsheba dying

Let me be very clear: if have had an abortion and repented, you are forgiven if you have asked to be forgiven (agree with God)!

Let be as clear: has USA repented of 57M abortions?

What will be the consequences?

Judgment/justice, not mercy

2. forgive...give mercy

Matt 6:14-15

James 2:13

The King is merciful/compassionate/forgiving...He is Love and delights in mercy

Love covers a multitude of sin...Love is merciful, mercy is loving

Mercy is at the "heart" of the Parables

- Prodigal Son (forgiveness of an offender)
- Good Samaritan (compassion for someone who needs help)

Our pure and innocent King suffered and died on a Roman Cross to cover the sins/wrongs/offenses of Adam's race

Because of His great love, our God gives us mercy

Our role, our part in God's mercy:

- receive God's mercy/forgiveness...by faith (not emotion),
because He has said it, not because we earned it
- give it as freely as we have received it (Matt 10:8, 1 Peter 4:8)

To whom should we freely, no strings attached, give mercy? (consequences unavoidable)

- To a child, spouse, friend, stranger that has lied to us
- To a thief that has stolen from us
- To the murderer who killed a loved one of ours
- To a spouse who has cheated on us
- To an employer who has passed over us in favor of a less qualified person
- To a brother or sister or friend that has betrayed us
- To the enemy that has slandered us
- To the unbeliever that persecutes us
- To any and every one that has wronged you in any way

How can we forgive such things?

Because we have been forgiven by the God we offended the same ways

How can we be compassionate to such people?

Because God has been compassionate with us...and we are no different than them

God's mercy (compassion, forgiveness) is an expression of God's Love

We are agents of God's love for all men...we are witnesses of Jesus Christ

Even though we don't "feel" like giving mercy to those who have wronged us,
we must choose to Matt 16:24 and not respond in kind

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy

We have all been wronged...and will be many times more

But none of us have been wronged to the breadth/width/depth that we have wronged God

When a believer sins, he spits in the face of the merciful God Who suffered and
died that he, the sinner, might be blameless

Can we get a sense of the ingratitude and selfishness that so offends God?

Who are we to not forgive anybody of anything, given what we have done to
the merciful Lord?

How do we show our appreciation for being given the mercy of God?

We give it as freely as we received it (Matt 10:8)

So, with all eyes closed...with sincerity of heart and honesty of action...

- if you want God's mercy, please stand up
- if you are willing to give mercy as you have received God's mercy, please raise your hands (surrender...praise)

I do not know if

- there are any not standing and have not raised their hands
- those who are standing with their hands raised are sincere

But God does know!

Luke 18:9-14

We will all stand alone before God and have to answer for the contents of our heart, upon which depends our eternity

- Without the mercy of God (received and given by faith), we will go to the Lake of Fire forever
- With God's mercy (received and given by faith), we will be in the presence of God forever

The choice is ours

The promise is God's: Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy