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**“Beatitudes: Blessed are The Merciful”**

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**Matt 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.**

## Previously the beatitudes have shown how a person must be brought to a point of recognizing his spiritual bankruptcy, mourning for his sin nature, becoming gentle, and having a thirst and a hunger for God’s Word for him to be blessed by God. We begin now to see the character of this child of God, and Jesus begins with being merciful. Mercy is the expression of a forgiving nature for the guilty and compassion for those in need and for the suffering. God planned His mercy for His people long ago with the introduction of the mercy seat in the Tabernacle Holy of Holies:

*Exodus 25:17 "And you shall make a mercy seat of pure gold, two and a half cubits long and one and a half cubits wide.*

The blood offering at the mercy seat was a representation of the coming sacrifice of Jesus Christ:

* Lev 16:15 *Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil, and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat.*

God’s mercy was proclaimed in both OT and NT times:

* Psa 145:8 *The Lord is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.*
* Luke 6:36 *Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*
* James 5:11 *Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.*

## His plan to show mercy includes us also:

* Heb 8:12 *For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more.*
* Luke 1:50 *And His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him.*

## There is no object given in this Beatitude (Matt 5:7) since being merciful should be a constant characteristic of the disciples of Jesus Christ. Being merciful is also involved in our love for other Christians and our enemies:

Luke 6:27 *But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,*

## Being merciful also means that we have a forgiving nature. When we begin to comprehend all that God has forgiven us we must have a forgiving nature toward others.

* Matt 6:14-15 *"For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.* ***15****But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.*
* Matt 18:33 *'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?'*

Of course Matt 6:14-15 is not a call to do works of forgiving others to earn God’s forgiveness, but states that if we are not willing to forgive others then we do not have a changed heart and thus have not been forgiven by the Father for our sins. God saved us while we were still sinners:

* Eph 2:4-5 *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us* ***5****even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*
* James 2:13 *For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.*

Paul found mercy even though he persecuted the church and Jesus:

1Tim 1:16 *And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.*

Similarly, God shows His mercy on us not based upon any works that we might do:

Titus 3:5 *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,*

The mercy shown us by God is an example of His grace toward sinners since we do not deserve the salvation that God gives us and nothing that we plan or do can earn God’s mercy for us:

Rom 9:16 *So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.*

The wisdom we receive by grace should have the following characteristics for all to see as a witness of the love shown us:

James 3:17 *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.*

Remembering the mercy shown us let us all make showing mercy a primary trait in our lives:

* 1Peter 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*
* Heb 4:16 *Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.*