

Matt 5:7 – Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.

In addressing the issue of a real salvation and a true knowledge of God, Jesus speaks to matters of the heart. We've already gone through the first four of these Beatitudes. He talks about those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, those who are gentle or meek, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. These are inner principles that operate in the life of those who belong to God's kingdom.

WHAT IS IT? - Merciful – (Eleemones-Greek) – The word translated "mercy" which refers to concrete acts of mercy rather than merely a merciful attitude.

Col 3:12 gives us an idea of what it looks like to be merciful - _____ & _____

There is a tenderness or heart attitude of being merciful. It does not mean simply to feel compassionate. It refers to the ability to literally get inside someone else's skin until you think their thoughts, feel their emotions, and understand their pain. It is more than a passing wave of pity. It is an empathizing, it is a deliberate act of feeling their suffering and seeking to relieve it.

WHAT IT ISN'T - Sometimes we are better at defining things by suggesting what it isn't.... for example if I asked you to describe your dream profession, you might not have an answer, but you could name some things that it wouldn't be. 1 John 3:17 helps us describe what mercy is not - _____

Jesus gives us another example of an abundance of and a lack of mercy in Matthew 18:21-35

In the days of the Roman Empire, how do you think it sounded when Jesus said to be merciful? Was it vogue in those days to be merciful? _____. In conventional thinking being merciful, being forgiving, being kind, being gentle with people, overlooking their transgressions, showing them great and magnanimous kindness no matter what they might have done to you is/was a sign of_____.

The beatitude mercy does not refer to some natural human emotion. It doesn't refer to some sort of earthly operative principle. It refers to a mercy which grows out of a relationship with God. We're talking about something that's not human at all, it's divine. We're moving out of the kingdom of darkness, out of the kingdom of men, out of the kingdom of this world in to the kingdom of God.

Read Psalms 145:9, "The Lord is good to all and His mercies are over all His works." Lamentations 3:22, "The Lord's loving kindnesses, or mercies, indeed never cease for His compassions never fail." And where there is compassion, there is mercy. "They are new every morning, great is Thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:32 says, "He will have compassion according to His abundant loving kindness." And His compassion is expressed in His forgiveness and much more.

Mercy is also linked, secondly, to love. As in Ephesians 2:4-5, we see that mercy flows into forgiveness but out of love. It starts with love, becomes mercy, and then becomes forgiveness.

WHY BE MERCIFUL? –

Psalms 18:25 _____

Luke 6:36 _____

Prov 19:17 _____

Matt 25:34-35 _____

Job 6:14 _____

What examples of mercy can we find in the bible? List a few and describe how mercy manifested itself in the situation.

Jesus – 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____

God _____

Strangers – _____

HOW ARE WE TO BE MERCIFUL?

Great! Jesus calls us to be merciful. Are there some real examples that tell us what it looks like to be merciful?

Isaiah 58:7 gives us several examples - _____ , _____ , _____

Job 16:5 _____

Gal 6:2 - _____

Acts 20:35 _____

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM NOT MERCIFUL?

What is the result for not understanding and applying this beatitude to your life?

James 2:13 - _____

Matthew 18:34-35 _____

Matthew 6:11-15 _____

Is it possible that merciless people might be in the church and say they are kingdom citizens? _____
Vindictive, self-righteous, defensive, self-protective, people who lack sympathy and compassion and forgiveness, are like the _____ who hurried on by the Jericho road past the beaten man.

Please read the following

James 2:13 said when you're merciful God will pour out mercy on you. It's not that your acts of mercy are meritorious for salvation, but you shall obtain mercy. It doesn't say you shall obtain salvation, you'll obtain mercy. You'll get mercy. Mercy is giving you what you don't deserve. God will be merciful to you if you're merciful to others.

To wrap things up, do you think there are some linkages to the other beatitudes we've studied?

- 1) Those who are poor in spirit acknowledge their need of mercy and are willing to show mercy to others.
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

LETS PRAY –

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Col 3:12 - 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

1 John 3:17 - 17But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him,)how does God's love abide in him?

Psalms 145:9 - The LORD is ^(A) good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Lamentations 3:22 - The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

Lamentations 3:32 - ³²but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

Ephesians 2:4-5- 4But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

Psalms 18:25 - 25With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;

Luke 6:36 - Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful

Prov 19:17 - Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.

Matt 25:34-35 – Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

Job 6:14 - He who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

Isaiah 58:7 - Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

Job 16:5 - I could strengthen you with my mouth, and the solace of my lips would assuage your pain

Gal 6:1-2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ

Acts 20:35 -In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

James 2:13 - Because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone that has not shown mercy.