

August 4, 2024 Meeker Christian Church December 9, 1997

### Beatitude Series #5 Mercy

**Matthew 5:1-7** *5 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:3 #1 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*4 #2 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.*

*5 #3 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth*

*6 #4 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

*7 #5 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.*

Today we are on #5 in in our Beatitude Series *7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.*

The mindset of a society of individuals that demand their rights and privileges be provided and protected by the power structure of that society – with little or no regard to their own, personal obligation and responsibility to that society - is like a cancer that has metastasized leaving that society in the throes of death. It has happened because the definition and intent of the word mercy has largely been ignored, and what remains is a far cry from the original definition and intent of the word and its application in life.

The dictionary definition of mercy is -- ‘compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm:’ In our language, synonyms are: full of pity, merciful, compassionate. (That English definition is part of the problem of not understanding what mercy means!!!) Mercy is universal, not just for those under your power to punish or harm.

From the Greek definition: **1655** *eleēmōn* – *merciful*, acting consistently with the revelation of God's *covenant*. [See 1656 \(eleos\)](#). Understanding the definition of “mercy” means - knowing and living the Righteous revelation of Holy Scripture.

From Charles Barkley’s commentary on this passage: ~~“page 103 – 2nd paragraph~~ “Blessed are the merciful, -- Mercy is active compassion that helps the hurting. Mercy is more than pity for another person; it is identification and involvement with the person in his or her need. Mercy is grace in action or grace applied. **The Hebrew word for mercy carries the idea of identification with the suffering of others.**

It is extremely revealing and self incriminating to observe how the very opposite of this beatitude of mercy is misunderstood and practiced by the masses of people and glorified

by the media. Once again - the Hebrew word for mercy carries the idea of identification with the suffering of others. – The Greek word for mercy is acting consistently with the revelation of God's covenant.

I join the outcry of those appalled by the Olympic mockery of the Lord's Supper...The actual practice and media glorification makes fun of others with no restraint, especially an open season in criticizing and vilifying Christians and persons with faith and conviction for Holy righteousness. Absolute opposite of the definition of mercy !!! I wonder why no one has mentioned the similarities to the accounts of demon possession recorded in the Bible?

The protagonists cry out - you cannot say this or do that because “that offends me” – but they are merciless in offending others. Persecution is no longer a possibility but has become a practicing reality. Mercy for them is no longer an attribute but instead, a character trait to be mocked! The sooner Christians acknowledge that, the more capacity we can gain in living and proclaiming righteousness. Remember the Greek definition of mercy is acting consistently with the revelation of God's *covenant*!!!

The master of the universes entrusts His people with His will to be practiced and proclaimed. **Matthew 5: 7** *Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.*

As we live consistently in the revelation of God's covenant we become sensitive to and **identify with the physical and spiritual suffering of others.**

It is a revealing and refreshing reminder to experience how the songwriter handles this ministry of mercy. I share again with you the words of page 91 we sang earlier to help gain understanding of mercy.

1. A pilgrim was I and a wandering. In the cold night of sin I did roam. When Jesus the kind Shepherd found me, and now I am on my way home.
2. He restoreth my soul when I'm weary. He giveth me strength day by day; He leads me beside the still waters, He guards me each step of the way.
3. When I walk through the dark, lonesome valley, My Savior will walk with me there; And safely His great hand will lead me To the mansions He's gone to prepare.

Chorus. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days all the days of my life; Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days, all the days of my life.

Matthew 5:7 The conclusion of this beatitude *Blessed are the merciful*, contains this amazing revelation: *For they shall obtain mercy.*

Another writer says of this beatitude: "it is a statement of a principle which runs all through the New Testament. The New Testament is insistent that to be forgiven we must be forgiving. Let me rephrase that a tiny bit: **The New Testament is insistent that to expect to be forgiven and in expression of gratefulness for forgiveness, we must be forgiving to others!**

Here are more verses to gain insight as to the meaning and application of giving and receiving mercy:

**James 2:13** *For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

**James 2:13 NIV** *because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!*

IT IS THE CONSISTENT TEACHING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT THAT INDEED ONLY THE MERCIFUL SHALL RECEIVE MERCY. The classic scriptural example of mercy is in Luke 10:25-37 and I believe from that parable we can see the attitude of two-thirds of mankind; perhaps in our own age even a greater percentage miss the magnitude and personal destiny choice involved in the meaning of "mercy." (read)

**Luke 10:25-37** *And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, {Jesus} saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He {Jesus} said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" 27 So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "*

**28** *And He {Jesus} said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." 29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

**30** *Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I*

come again, I will repay you.' **36** So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" **37** And he said, "He who showed **mercy** on him."  
Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The religious priest, the religious Levite, passed the person needing mercy.  
- I do not know if it is significant, but is certainly interesting that 2/3 of those passing by for whatever perceived notion or theological legalism decided against showing mercy. But then the one who was considered as the scum of the earth – a half breed Samaritan – becomes the hero and point of the story of understanding and practicing the beatitude attribute and attitude of MERCY. Are you with me? What is right as revealed and taught by the Bible is infinitely more important than man made rules or regulations!!! No matter the consequences!. The mercy shown by Jesus for we sinners is the model of mercy for us to share with others.

Here is another lesson, a clear teaching of mercy also modeled by JESUS of which the Bible is replete:

**Matthew 9:10-13** *While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."* Jesus is not minimizing the righteous. He is edifying their understanding and life practice as a model of what they are learning and doing. Righteous folks encourage each other, but always with the intent to mercifully help others gain salvation. It is a matter of the same mercy we have received from Jesus to share with others.

Mercy is admitting where you have come from and out of. //And passionately wanting to help others experience and obtain that same hope. It may be either physically or spiritually and often times both needs are met with the same merciful deeds.

**Matthew 12:7** Jesus speaking; *If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent.*

**Matthew 23:23** again the instructions for life directly from Jesus: *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."*

We 21<sup>st</sup> Century Americans like to ask why and what questions: Here are the what and why answers to learning and living mercy:

**Micah 6:8** *He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

**Matthew 7:12** *So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*

**Luke 6:31-36** *Do to others as you would have them do to you./// Dear family, These are not hollow words or meaningless platitudes – these words are from the throne room of heaven to you to have a satisfying and fulfilling life on earth. ///32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that.34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*

**Colossians 3:12** *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion (**mercy**), kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

**James 2:12** *Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom,*

**James 3:17** *But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*

O THE BLISS OF THE MAN WHO GETS TO KNOW OTHER PEOPLE, UNTIL HE CAN SEE WITH THEIR EYES, THINK WITH THEIR THOUGHTS, FEEL WITH THEIR FEELINGS, FOR HE WHO DOES THAT, WILL FIND OTHERS DO THE SAME FOR HIM, AND IN SO DOING, BOTH PARTIES WILL KNOW THAT IS WHAT GOD IN JESUS CHRIST HAS DONE FOR THEM!

**Matthew 5:7** *Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.*

Our invitation hymn this morning

I draw your attention to the insider cover of the bulletin:

**Matthew 5:1-7**

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**James 2:13**

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**Luke 10:25-37**

**Matthew 9:10-13**

**Matthew 12:7**

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**Micah 6:8**

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