

Blessed Are the Merciful: Reflecting God's Mercy

May 27, 2026

Summary

Blessed Are the Merciful

Scripture References

Primary text

- Matthew 5:7

Other references

- Exodus 34:6
- Luke 6:36
- Deuteronomy 6
- Leviticus 19
- Genesis 3:15
- Ephesians 4:32
- James 2:13
- James 2:15-16
- Matthew 18
- Hebrews 11

Overview

The Beatitude “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy” launches the outward, action-oriented section of Jesus' “celestial ladder.” A true kingdom citizen shows mercy because God first showed mercy. Humanitarian aid apart from Christ is only an echo; biblical mercy flows from God's own character, meets real need, and always points people to the gospel. Tonight's study traced mercy's source, its practice, and its clearest expression—freely extending forgiveness.

Main Points

Mercy is Derived, Not Native

- None of the Beatitudes come naturally to fallen humanity; sin fractured the image of God like a shattered mirror.
- Exodus 34:6 reveals the source: God doesn't merely perform mercy—He is merciful.

- First historical display: God spared Adam and Eve and promised a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15).
- A believer “draws mercy like water from a well” by abiding in Christ's finished work and nearness.
- Man-made mercy often operates on quid-pro-quo: “I'll be kind so you'll repay me.” Kingdom mercy is grace-driven.

Mercy Must Be Lived Out

- Luke 6:36 sets the standard: be merciful **as** your Father is merciful.
- Working definition (from the handout):

responding to the misery, weakness, and guilt of others with forgiveness, compassion, and acts of kindness rather than the judgment they deserve.

- Illustration: Israel's gleaning law (Leviticus 19) left grain on field edges so the poor could work and eat—a mercy that respected dignity and pointed to God's provision.
- Guardrails: mercy never enables sin or contradicts Scripture; it pairs tangible help with the gospel (“no bread without Bread”).

Mercy Is Most Clearly Seen in Forgiveness

- Human need traces back to sin; therefore the deepest act of mercy is pardoning guilt.
- Kingdom mercy does not wait for an apology—Matthew 18 commands us to go, confront, and forgive in hope of “winning a brother.”
- Leaving vengeance to God frees the believer to forgive even hostile people.
- Quote from Thomas Watson:

“A merciful man is a God-like man.”

Mercy Fuels Worship and Perseverance

- Remembering God's mercy stirs gratitude and public witness; every merciful act becomes worship in word and deed.
- James 2:13 warns that withholding mercy betrays an unchanged heart; “mercy triumphs over judgment.”
- Mercy serves as the “rest platform” on Spurgeon's ladder: when we stumble, God's mercy keeps us from falling to the bottom and urges us upward.
- Because Christ absorbed judgment, believers can sacrifice time, possessions, and pride so others may hear the gospel.

Key Truths

- God is the exclusive source of true mercy; we merely reflect what we have received.
- Biblical mercy always includes or leads to the proclamation of Christ, never stopping at humanitarian relief.
- Forgiveness offered before it is asked for is the highest display of mercy.
- Showing mercy re-orientes the heart to worship and testifies that we belong to God.
- Acts done “for attention” or “for trade” cancel their witness and distort the gospel.

Response

- Abide in Christ daily; draw mercy from His presence before you attempt to show it.
- Meet a practical need this week and intentionally share the gospel while doing so.
- Initiate forgiveness with someone who has hurt you, even if they have not apologized.
- Evaluate ongoing ministries: ensure every act of help openly points people to Jesus.
- Memorize Matthew 5:7 and pray it when tempted to withhold kindness.

Closing

A kingdom citizen's life is stamped by God's own mercy—received without earning, then released without condition. The call is simple yet searching: extend to others what the Father lavished on you.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

Prayer

(The group closed in prayer, thanking God for His mercy, asking for boldness to pair every act of compassion with the gospel, and lifting specific needs: Tristan's family, Tom's health episode, upcoming food-bank outreach, and salvation for friends and relatives.)