



Life Group Discussion Guide
Blessed are the Merciful
January 29, 2017

Open in prayer.

Read the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-10

- Have you ever thought ill of someone for their behavior and later found out they were dealing with personal issues you didn't know about that affected their behavior? Has anyone ever done this to you?

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” (Matthew 5:7)

In verse 7 **we move from what blessed people need to what blessed people need to do.** It's here that we move from belief to behavior.

The Big Idea: All throughout Scripture we see this great truth: God loves mercy. We who have received so much mercy from God are called to show mercy to others. We do this by seeing the needs of others, feeling their pain, and doing what God ask us to do.

Lamentations 3:22-23 NKJV - “Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.”

Psalm 145:8 - “The Lord is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.” NASB

- How would you define mercy?

The Hebrew for mercy -- *chesedh* -- means the ability to get right inside the other person's skin until we can see things with his or her eyes, think things with his or her mind and feel things with his or her feelings. So you see, mercy is much more than an emotional wave of pity. It is an internal identification with the person's pain.

- How is mercy different than pity or sympathy?
- Do you think we show mercy on a regular basis? Why or why not?
- Have you recently offered mercy to someone or been on the receiving end of mercy?
- How is this beatitude different than the first four in its expectations of Christ followers?



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John MacArthur - "Mercy is not the silent, passive pity that never seems to help in a tangible way. It is genuine compassion with a pure, unselfish attitude that reaches out to help."

Read and discuss Matthew 18:21-35

- What is your response to the story?
- With which character do you identify most?
- Why do we struggle to forgive others?

Why does God expect us to be people of mercy?

1. Because we have received mercy.

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved." (Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV)

2. Because we are going to need mercy in the future.

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." (Matthew 6:14 NIV)

- What are some practical ways to show mercy to the people in your life?
- What does it mean to love mercy? (Micah 6:8)
- How important is mercy to God? Why? (Hosea 6:6)

How can we show mercy in our lives?

By caring for those who are weaker or poorer. (Zechariah 7:9)

By forgiving others and restoring broken relationships. (Colossians 3:23)

By having compassion for those who have fallen into sin. (James 2:13)

Mercy sees others' needs. Mercy feels others' pain. Mercy does something.

- Who in your life needs your mercy?