

## Thank God for Mercy Matthew 5:7

### I. Our God is a merciful God!

- A. What is mercy?
  - 1. Sin and rebellion are actions that deserve justice.
    - (a) Justice is payment for the transgression.
    - (b) The penalty is deserved.
  - 2. Mercy is not giving the consequence that is deserved.
  - 3. Mercy is often combined with grace.
    - (a) Grace is giving what is not deserved, a blessing.
- B. Mercy is central to who God is (Psalm 103:8-12).
  - 1. Moses said to God, "Now, show me your glory" (Exodus 33:18-20). "I'll show you my goodness"(paraph.)
    - (a) Forgiving those who deserve judgment (Exodus 34:6-7).
    - (b) So, mercy is part of God's character; part of who he is.
  - 2. God loves mercy (Micah 7:18).
  - 3. He offers mercy to undeserving rebels (Deut. 4:29-31).
  - 4. God calls out to rebels with offers of mercy (Jer. 3:12-13).
    - (a) This is not just Israel. This is us! (Ephesians 2:3-5).
- C. Wise leaders appeal to God on the basis of his mercy (Daniel 9:7, 18-19).

### II. As people who have received mercy, God requires us to be merciful!

- A. Old covenant (Micah 6:7-8).
  - 1. It says that he requires that we "love mercy."
    - (a) This is not a call for a begrudging mercy that says, "Alright, if I have to, I will be merciful."
    - (b) To love mercy is to see its beauty and value.
    - (c) It's a call to be like God, who delights in being merciful.
  - 2. In response to lack of mercy, Jesus sent the Pharisees to Hosea 6:6 (Matthew 9:11-13).
    - (a) Israel emphasized religion and ritual (Hosea 6:1,4,6).
    - (b) But they neglected mercy to the poor, to non-believers.
    - (c) Their worship was superficial, people who worship with their lips but whose hearts are far from God's heart.
    - (d) God wants mercy, not ritual. He calls us to be like him.
- B. New Covenant: Jesus calls for mercy from his followers (Lk.6:36)
  - 1. We are to be merciful, like our God.
  - 2. The parable of the unmerciful servant.
    - (a) So, Jesus taught that not being merciful is hypocrisy.
    - (b) We like mercy for us. Maybe not so much for others.
    - (c) For us to lack mercy, is to be ungrateful for Jesus.

- 3. Being merciful is part of the command to love as we've been loved ("as I have loved you, so you must love one another).
    - (a) So, to be unmerciful is breaking covenant with God.
    - (b) That means, to not be merciful is unfaithfulness to God.
  - C. Forgiveness is one of the primary expressions of mercy.
    - 1. We are required to forgive (Matthew 6:12, 14-15).
      - (a) We pray to be forgiven in the same way we've forgiven others.
      - (b) Verses 14-15 emphasizes the meaning of the prayer.
    - 2. James says it in his prophetic style (James 2:12-13).
      - (a) That's as comforting as a massage with a blow torch!
    - 3. Today's beatitude: The merciful will receive mercy.
      - (a) The implication is that the unmerciful will not receive it.
      - (b) This is a strong warning to us.
      - (c) Withholding forgiveness is not an option for us!
  - D. Mercy is also showing kindness and compassion to those who are suffering.
    - 1. "Merciful" and "mercy" appear hundreds of times in the Psalms.
    - 2. People crying out to a merciful God for mercy.
    - 3. Think of the kindness and compassion God has shown you!
  - E. Mercy is more than kindness. "It's like kindness on steroids."
    - 1. Heartfelt compassion that is acted upon with real care directed at the need (physical, emotional, financial, spiritual)
    - 2. Group Publishing's report on children in poverty and Covid.
- ### III. Mercy toward one another is to be modeled after God's mercy to us.
- A. God's mercy is always full of grace!
    - 1. We don't deserve it. We can't possibly earn it.
      - (a) Yet, God is always willing to give it to those who want it.
  - B. God is readily willing to extend mercy, not slow to offer it.
    - 1. Not begrudgingly.
  - C. God is generous with mercy ("God, who is rich in mercy").
  - D. God is willing to forgive grievous sin (offenses).
    - 1. Our sin has hurt him (grieved his Holy Spirit).
    - 2. Our sin has hurt those he loves (his Son, other people).
  - E. God is willing to sacrifice and suffer to extend mercy.
    - 1. These are the ways God has been merciful to us.
    - 2. These are the ways he requires us to be merciful to one another.
  - F. A closing question: Why are we so often harder on each other than God has been on us?
    - 1. We so easily forget how much we have been forgiven.
      - (a) Are we ungrateful?
      - (b) Don't feel guilty. Look at Jesus and decide to be merciful because he has been merciful to you.