**Life Team Bible Study**

For the week of May 13 – Beatitudes wk 4 – Mercy!

**HANG**

* Have you ever lost a game on purpose? Why?
* Have you ever given mercy to someone who did not deserve it? How?

**HEAR**

We continue our study on the Beatitudes - the word means “blessings”. All the “beatitudes” in Matthew 5 begin with “Blessed are…”

**Matthew 5:3-11**

* Can you quote them yet? Try to memorize.

**Explain how each of the beatitudes build upon each other.**

**Notice the first 4 are internal the next 4 are external**

* 1-4 deal with inner principles – of the heart, mind, and spirit
* 5-8 deal with the outward manifestations – that we live & walk out

**Let’s focus on the next one**

**Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.**

The Romans and people of Jesus day - mercy was a sign of weakness. It was despised - but to God it mirrors of one his greatest characteristics

* Do you remember the difference between grace and mercy from Sunday?
  + **Grace – is getting what you don’t deserve. Heaven**
  + **Mercy – is not getting what you deserve. Hell**
* According to Matt 5:7 - what do we get when we are merciful? Mercy.
* Is mercy given always mercy returned from people? Not always.
* Does God show his mercy to everyone? Sometimes.

**Lamentations 3:22-23,** [**Romans 9:15**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%209.15)

Christian or not - Every breath, laugh, love, hug, moment of pleasure in this life – are proofs of his mercy. His gifts of joy and hope to a world that is steep in rebellion. Even the wicked laugh and love – mercy

They are snapshots of a greater joy and love – thru the grace giver.

**Mercy personified - What Mercy looks like**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Colossians 3:12-14, Romans 12:17-21**

* Can you think of some examples of how Christ modeled mercy?

**Matthew 25:31-46 (goats and sheep)**

**Luke 10:25-37 (Good Samaritan)**

1. **Mercy sees distress – You don’t ignore the suffering of others**

* How can we intentionally notice the pain of others?

1. **Mercy has compassion – you care (You not only see it you care)**

* Is it possible to see a need and not care? Yes – the heartless do every day.

1. **Mercy responds with practical help – you do something about it**

**\*\*\* Mercy described in the Bible:**

Mercy – meets physical needs - Feed the Hungry, Give drink to the thirsty, Clothe the naked, Shelter the homeless, Comfort the imprisoned, Visits the sick

Mercy – meets emotional needs - Counsel the doubtful, Comfort the sorrowful, to forgive other’s offenses, to not seek revenge, to be there when someone dies

Mercy – meets spiritual needs - Admonish & rebukes sin, is patient with those in error, Instructs the uninformed, prays for others, preaches word of God.

* Do any of those seem a little difficult? Which ones?
* What do they all have in common? Action – mercy is more than sentiment.

1. **Mercy is regardless of religion, race, or tradition – you are not selective**

**Luke 6:32-36**

* **Who are we to give mercy to? Everyone - even those who do not deserve it.**
* We are to give mercy to those closest to us – family / friends
* We are to give mercy those we work with / go to school with
* We are to give mercy to those who hurt and attack us
* We are to give mercy to those blinded and deceived by Satan
* What about people we don’t know? (celebrities, politicians, criminals)
* What about people we don’t like? What about people of different religions?
* What about people who are in sinful lives?

1. **Mercy is more concerned with people than rules**

**Hosea 6:6, Matthew 23:23-24**

* Does God care about justice – sacrifice – and rules? Yes - but God cares more about mercy.
* Explain how a merciful person can be just and merciful?

1. **Mercy is the love of God’s justice**

**Hosea 4:1, Amos 5:21-24, James 2:13**

* What is God angry at Israel about in Hosea? Their lack of mercy
* How did that affect their connection to God - Amos?
* How does God respond to a person without mercy? Justice / Judgement
* **What was the most supreme act of God's mercy? The Cross**

**Romans 5:8, 10, Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:4-5**

**HOME**

**Matthew 7:17-20, Galatians 5:22-23**

* How can you show mercy to those you see every day?
* Who do you need to specifically give mercy to?

**Romans 13:1-6, Daniel 2:21, 4:17, John 19:11, Titus 3:1, Jeremiah 25:8-9**

**Acts 4:27-28, 1 Peter 2:14, Genesis 9:6**

* According to the verses above how does God use Governments to bring justice and peace – while we live out his mercy?

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**The difference between grace and mercy:**

* + Grace – is getting what you don’t deserve. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* + Mercy – is not getting what you deserve. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Mercy personified - What Mercy looks like**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Colossians 3:12-14, Romans 12:17-21, Matthew 25:31-46, Luke 10:25-37, Luke 6:32-36, Hosea 6:6, Matthew 23:23-24, Hosea 4:1, Amos 5:21-24, James 2:13**

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**Who are we to give mercy to?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. **Mercy is more concerned with people than rules**
2. **Mercy is the love of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The most supreme act of God's mercy? The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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