**PURSUE (The Beatitudes) – Wk 4 – Mercy!**

**Happy Mother’s Day! Mom used break up mercy games w/ bro**

**Their life – was repressive – harsh unforgiving govt, manipulative legalistic religious groups, unreliable politicians, deep generational racial hatred – pity was not something they gave to many.**

**With this backdrop – Jesus walks thru the valleys of Judea and up a hill near the Sea of Galilee to share a kingdom perspective of life.**

**Called the Beatitudes (Latin beatus - blessed) found in Mathew 5.**

**They outline how to live a truly God blessed life - The blessings that transcends our circumstances - A deep state of bliss and peace.**

**So far – Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. / 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. / 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. / 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

**The beatitudes are given together. They are a progressive order**

**Realizing our spiritually bankruptcy (Poor in spirit) = leads to salvation – a spiritual brokenness follows (mourning) that brings HS comfort –leads to a submission and release of control to God (meekness) – that leads to new pursuits and a spiritual hunger and thirst…**

**Today – the result of this is a life that reflects the heart of God**

**First 4 are attitudes of a disciple - the next 4 are actions of a disciple**

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

**\*\* The last four don’t happen until the first 4 take happen.**

**The next is - Matthew 5:** **Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**

**A heart becomes truly merciful thru the first 4 beatitudes…**

**When I think of today’s beatitude – I think how God has in many ways given us models of this trait in our mothers.**

**Mom memes – “suck it up buttercup”**

**What is mercy? (Gr. eleos) – to have pity and compassion.**

**Often compared to but not the same as grace, but closely related.**

**(1 Timothy 1:2, 2 Timothy 1:2, Titus 1:4)**

* **Grace – is getting what you don’t deserve.**
* **Mercy – is not getting what you deserve.**
* **Grace – sees our depravity and offers pardon**
* **Mercy – sees our punishment and offers reprieve**
* **Grace sees our helplessness and gives unmerited favor**
* **Mercy sees the consequences of our helplessness and gives pity.**

**Grace deals with our need – Mercy deals with our misery**

**What I deserve vs. what I get**

**God reserves the right to show mercy and grace on whomever He will, As He said to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion” (**[**Romans 9:15**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%209.15)**).**

**It is because of the mercy and compassion of God that we can have a home in heaven, despite our sin. We sowed selfishness and corruption, and Jesus reaped our punishment on the cross.**

**Mercy is deserving hell and punishment - but given compassion**

**Grace is not deserving redemption – but given eternal life.**

**Closely related but different – often spoken of together.**

**Matthew 5:** **Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**

**How do we give mercy? To give it and live it.**

**(Micah 7:18, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Colossians 3:12-14)**

1. **Mercy means we are quick to forgive**

**We understand the mercy we have been given (beatitude 1-4) now we respond with compassion, grace, mercy, and forgiveness.**

**Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.**

**Matthew 18:21-35 - Jesus follows up with a story called the parable of the merciless servant – forgiven much then harshly demands payment from others**

**32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”**

**Forgiveness and mercy go hand in hand.**

**Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, (merciful) forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

**Mercy means we are quick to forgive**

1. **Mercy means we do not seek revenge**

**To have mercy is to release the offence to a higher judge.**

**Romans 12:17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

**Mercy does not excuse sin but chooses to not retaliate.**

**We see this in King David with Saul – had opportunities to kill him**

**Most movies are based on a revenge principle. Justice in our hands (footnote – bible says God institutes govt to bring justice and peace in society – to convict and protect the innocent (Rom 13:1-6, Dan 2:21, 4:17, John 19:11, Titus 3:1, Jeremiah 25:8-9, Acts 4:27-28, 1 Peter 2:14, Gen 9:6)**

**But ultimate justice is the LORDS! Not injustices are legal crimes – but they are still unjust. God will bring justice.**

**A merciful person can be both merciful and just. Prosecuting attorney – seeking a plea. A boss. A Christian leader. A parent – holding to just rules with needed discipline, while giving mercy when lead.**

**A mother story – mom’s disciple and mercy. Powerful.**

1. **Mercy means we care for those need**

**Mercy is an action not a sentiment – mercy is not a wish of wellbeing.**

**Matthew 25 – Jesus gives a parable of the sheep and the goats.**

**The sheep inherit the kingdom (the merciful)**

**Jesus said when you cared for those that were need – you did it to me.**

**The goats into eternal fire (the heartless)**

**Jesus said because when they did not show mercy on them and help them, they were neglecting Jesus – and sent to hell. (Life Teams)**

**Jesus often condemned hard-hearted unmerciful religious leaders who neglected the poor. It angered him. The OT prophets primary message was God’s anger over their sin and lack of mercy.**

**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, forgive others offenses, 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**

**To the romans and the culture of Jesus time – mercy was a sign of weakness. A disease of the soul. It was despised… but to God it is a mirror of one his greatest characteristics.**

1. **Mercy means we must completely rely on God**

**Mercy, compassion, and grace requires a total dependency on God. That is why the previous beatitudes are so crucial.**

**To be merciful is to make war with our natural tendencies**

**We easily give mercy to those who deserve it or are easy to be merciful to – but Jesus says… Luke 6:32 “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.**

**35 But love your enemies, (mercy) do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**

* **W****e 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**

**People we don’t know or like (celebrities, politicians, criminals)**

**We give it to all people – especially to those in sin, and those who don’t deserve it.**

**What falls off your tree? (Matt 7:17-20, Gal 5)**

**When we show mercy and grace, we are imitating the character of God.**

**To pursue Jesus is to reflect Jesus – to reflect Jesus is to give mercy**

**You will be known by your fruit.**

**If I am not merciful to those around me, it may be because I don’t understand or know the mercy of God!**

**And here is the kicker – often times this is not for their sake, this is for your sake. (they may not want it - or care – or give it back)**

**The power of mercy is its ability to heal – for yourself & others**

**Matthew 5:** **Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**

**The reward for the merciful is – MERCY**

**I think it is BOTH – mercy from God and mercy from others.**

**\* Mercy from others**

**Principle of reciprocity**

**Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.**

**Proverbs 22:8 Those who plant injustice will harvest disaster, and their reign of terror will come to an end. / Pro 1:31 Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes. / Pro 11:17 Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves.**

**Hosea 10:13 But you have cultivated wickedness and harvested a thriving crop of sins.**

**Matthew 7:2 …the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.**

**There is a measure of mercy given to those who are merciful – as opposed to the harsh.**

**However - that does not mean that you will always be given mercy by everyone.**

**\* Mercy from God on the day we stand before him.**

**Matthew 25 – feed, clothe, give drink, care for, comfort, etc. you did not do this, and you will be cast from me / Matt 6:12**

**James 2:13 There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.**

**The most dynamic picture of God’s grace and mercy is the cross**

**Where Jesus took our sin and God’s justice upon himself.**

**We deserved judgement and punishment – but are given compassion instead = mercy. We don’t deserve this gift we are given = grace**

**We are guilty in sin and exercise selfishness – wretched and dying worthy of the wrath of God. Jesus comes to us… born, lived, walked, breathed, showed us, then laid it down. He took our punishment - He was our substitute – our sacrifice.**

**Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 10 …while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!**

**He willingly laid down his life – showing compassion and mercy – he gave us forgivingness – to all those who call upon his name.**

**Dan 9:9 The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him;**

**Titus 3:5 …he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit…**

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

**God audacious, daring, bold, explicitly, clear, amazing - mercy**

**(Psalm 119:64, Genesis 32:10, 2 Sam 24:14, Nehemiah 9:19, Ps 69:13, Lamentations 3:22-23)**

**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, revenge and self-centeredness. Even the wicked laugh and love. – mercy / grace.**

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

**Mothers are great at teaching us mercy, patience, forgiveness, kindness. Just watch them from a distance and see God at work in their lives.**

**You can see in little girls as they play and imitate their mommy’s. You can see in young men who honor and respect their mom’s gentleness and commitment. Thank you mom’s, for giving us a living example of the mercy of God.**

**Matthew 5:** **Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. (mom’s may you find mercy for your devotion to your kids and family)**

**Jesus is echoing the words of God through the prophet - Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O mortal, 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.**