



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 6 "Mercy Me!"
By Pastor Jody May 09/29/2024

Matthew 5:1-11 ESV

The Sermon on the Mount

5 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

The Beatitudes

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

[READ THE TEXT]

Pastor – "People of God, this is the Word of God."

People – "Thanks be to God."

[PRAY]



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[INTRO]

Mercy, it's the thing that everyone wants but no one really likes to extend it.

It's like when your kid plays little league, and the score is getting run up on his team; of course you want mercy. At the same time when your kid's team is putting a whooping on another team you hate it when they take the starters out.

It's like when your behind on a bill for like the third month in a row and you want the electric company to over-look the fees to getting your lights turned back on. At the same time, you have a hard time not demanding a refund on your check if the meat wasn't cooked the way you liked it at the restaurant.

It's like when you go to the teacher and beg them for make-up work because you didn't study enough for the last test, and you know when your parents find out it means getting grounded. At the same time your friend wants help with their HW at 12 at night but you decline their call because you want to go to bed.

It's like when you are about to miss your exit, and you need to get over two lanes and you throw that blinker on praying that someone will let you in. At the same time, you lose your mind when someone in front of you doesn't use their blinker to let you know they're turning.

Mercy, everyone wants it, but most people don't really like to give it. Yet, that is one of the **calling cards of being a Christian**, it is the type of person that holds no record of wrong, that when someone deserves a consequence for wrong, bad, or negligent behavior a Christian is willing to help absorb some of that pain and help a brother/sister out.

Now that can't happen until a Christian experiences the first 4 beatitudes. Those first four teachings are all about God changing the heart of men, it's all about an internal change, the next 4 are about the fruit of that change.



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*"A Christian is something **before** he does anything; and we have to be Christian **before** we can act as Christians." – Martyn Lloyd Jones*

You can never get to the point of wanting to give Mercy until:

You realize the depths of your spiritual bankruptcy; that without Mercy there's no way to have a spiritual account in the positive.

You realize that you are a sinner; that without Mercy, there is no way to change the fruit of your labor, everything you do is polluted.

You realize that you are prideful; that without Mercy you can never be gentled, taken in, and broken, to be put in service for His Kingdom.

You realize that you need righteousness above all; that it takes the Mercy of God to forgive you of sins.

Upon realizing those things in your life, you are now ready to extend Mercy, for you understand it, you have received it, you have been changed by it and you should want to do it, but it never starts off as something easy to do.

"Blessed are the Merciful, for they shall receive Mercy."

The word for mercy here is an **active compassion**, you can't define compassion as just feeling here in the NT, it is accompanied with action, therefore **Mercy is a compulsion to move on the behalf of another – Active Compassion.**¹ Mercy, the way it is used in scripture, isn't just being nice to someone that is down on their luck it is to look at the due consequences of sin, and to choose to alleviate some of that pain yourself.

Put it to you this way, **Grace is getting what you don't deserve, Mercy is not getting what you do deserve.** Mercy can come in the form of forgiveness but it's more than that, Mercy is a genuine compassion with unselfish motives, that still reaches out to those in need.

MP:

**Mercy is given freely by those whom
have been changed by it.**

¹ Compassion ἐλεήμων (eleēmōn). adj. merciful. *Indicates a compassionate and merciful quality.* This adjective occurs twice in the nt. In the Beatitudes of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says, "Blessed are the merciful, because they will be shown mercy" (Matt 5:7). In Hebrews 2:17, it describes Jesus' merciful and faithful service as high priest. John Frederick, "[Mercy and Compassion](#)," ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).



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Today we have two parts to figuring out if you have been changed by it, the first thing we will do is **seek to understand Mercy, and see the need for it**, and then briefly we will talk about the **uses of Mercy and the ways to give it**.

1. Understanding Mercy and the Need for It.

Ok so I tricked you but I have three subpoints for this first part about understanding Mercy just for those of you wanting a perfect trinitarian number.

◇ **It comes from a heart that has received it.**

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

First starts with the caveat of Peter asking Jesus, Lord how often do I forgive my brother, Jesus is like how about infinite! (18:21-23)

Jesus precedes to tell him a story about a servant that **pleaded for forgiveness** from his master over a debt, who not only was patient on a pay back of a loan but forgave the debt entirely! In return that same man found a man who owed him money and when he couldn't pay went to put him in jail. His master found out, and in retribution called in the debt and put him in jail. Jesus caps it off with this hard truth.

Matthew 18:33-35 ESV

And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Mercy BEGINS with FORGIVENESS, and the calling is for us to practice it, for in the least, it is a reflection of what has been done for us.

"You are not truly forgiven if you are not willing to forgive." - [Kent Hughes](#)



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If we are not willing to forgive those who offend us, those that need our patience, and even those that aren't aware of how we have offended them, then you are displaying a heart that doesn't understand how you have been forgiven. What comes in our lessons from having received mercy from God?

James 3:17 ESV

But the **wisdom from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of **mercy** and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Every Christian that has received mercy of God, displays the Wisdom of God in their lives, and that gifting of a mind that reflects how God thinks, then gives as God gives.

When people are rough, we respond with gentleness, when people are difficult, we are reasonable, and the **fruit** that comes out of our hearts is **ripened Mercy**. That fruit James says is impartial and sincere, you are not to choose who gets it and who doesn't, all God's people get plentiful amounts of it. Mercy begins with forgiveness for it is the biggest indicator of a heart that has been forgiven by God.

◇ **It paints the picture of the God who gives it.**

Remember our Lord throughout much of His ministry was trying to correct and rebuke the Pharisees and religious leaders of the day for what He had found was a **world filled with religious hypocrites**. There were lots of people saying what you should do while they themselves would never do it. One of the most famous stories in the history of the church teaches us the value that God places on being merciful.

In **Luke 10:25-37** Jesus is confronted by a lawyer, who asks Jesus about how to inherit eternal life and you most likely know that Jesus gave Him the summary of the Law, Love God above all and your neighbor as self. To justify himself, the lawyer **asked who is my neighbor?** That's when Jesus tells the story of the **Good Samaritan**, (give summary of the story).

So you see the Samaritan unlike the priests and Levite stops and is moved by compassion and we know it's compassion because Jesus uses the word for it



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in v. 37 *The neighbor is the one that showed **MERCY***. He then tells everyone within earshot to go and do the same, Go and show MERCY. The intent is if you really want to see if you love your neighbor, you will be as merciful as God is, even to those who are estranged to you.

How merciful was our Lord?

Hebrews 2:17 ESV

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Jesus was made like His brothers, the church, in every respect, meaning **things were done to Him that deserved to be punished** but instead the intent of those actions was that he might deliver mercy, as our High priest, faithfully. The end goal of Jesus' life was to endure our unjust treatment so that He might give Mercy to those who reviled him. Jesus not only gave mercy like the Good Samaritan, He endured the mistreatment as the one who was robbed, and then gave Mercy. With just such an example we are commanded to do no less the same.

Ephesians 4:32 ESV

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

The example is to forgive as we have been forgiven, God has gone to extraordinary lengths to love us, His was a compassion that compelled Him to leave a perfect eternal home, to journey to our plain of existence, to be robbed of His worship, to be beaten and humiliated and left for dead. Then before we knew what we were doing He turned His death into the most merciful act of all creation. That betrayal became the doorway to our reconciliation, but **it would only come through Jesus' Mercy**.

How merciful are we to be?

Colossians 3:12-13 ESV



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Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.**

The summary of all the fruit of the changed heart there in v.12, being compassionate, kind, humble, meek and patient without the desire to be forgiving, is self-serving and is not a sign of living in the KoH. The fruit of a changed heart IS for the purpose of being able to forgive, to be merciful.

And that **IS a doable command** for the person changed by it, they will be able to reflect Mercy like their Lord.

◇ **It blesses those who participate in it.**

Proverbs 11:17 ESV

A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself.

Now let's look at how this works.

Matthew 6:14-15 ESV

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

What does that mean!? If we don't forgive then we are not forgiven? **It doesn't mean in a "justification" sense**, no one, not even you, can take away your right standing with God if He is the one that elects to give it to you. Matthew 6:14-15 is given as a summary statement after the Lord's prayer, it is assumed that the person praying the Lord's Prayer is forgiving of others. That person reaps the benefit of continual sanctification, meaning that the Grace of God in correction and discipline is continually pouring on that person.

Those that forgive others, show that they understand the need to be forgiven and the need to confess sin, for they see the damages it causes when sin is



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not confessed. Forgiveness is the key that opens the lock of your heart to be mended and healed. When we forgive others, we are open to being forgiven. Harshness against others it will mirror in unrepentive natures in ourselves.

People who desire to forgive others also desire to keep confessing their sins, those that desire not to forgive believe there is nothing to ask forgiveness for. – therefore, that keeps you from receiving the Grace of God in healing and mending of your soul.

The longer a person withholds mercy/forgiveness the longer a person lives in denial of their own sin.

As a matter of fact, here is how we are to treat this situation when it comes upon us:

Matthew 5:24 ESV

"leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

It's seldom easy to give Mercy, but choosing to forgive is all about choice, it is an act of will, allowing the heart to catch up.

[Corrie Ten Boom](#), a Christian activist, made famous by the story [A Hiding Place](#), she and her family helped save nearly 800 lives during the Holocaust. She was turned in by her own town resulting in all of her family being sent to a concentration camp. Her father dies shortly after the incarceration and her only sister Betsie died just 12 days before Corrie's release in December 1944.

In 1947 she returned to Germany, to be a voice of the Gospel for people who were living under the weight of their sins. She would preach about the truth of upon confessing our sins God would cast them into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19). This particular day at the end of her message a man came forward and Corrie recognized him as a guard from *Ravensbrück Concentration Camp* and he says to her, "A fine message, *fräulein!* How good it is to know that, as you say, all our sins are at the bottom of the sea!" He then proceeded to ask her for forgiveness. Corrie in that moment was reminded of



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what Matthew 6 says and the weight of it, if one does not forgive, God will not forgive you. Listen to her words in that moment:²

"Those who were able to forgive their former enemies were able also to return to the outside world and rebuild their lives, no matter what the physical scars. **Those who nursed their bitterness remained invalids.** It was as simple and as horrible as that.

And still I stood there with the coldness clutching my heart. But forgiveness is not an emotion—I knew that too.

Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.

"Jesus, help me!" I prayed silently. "I can lift my hand. I can do that much. You supply the feeling."

And so woodenly, mechanically, I thrust my hand into the one stretched out to me. And as I did, an incredible thing took place. The current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm, sprang into our joined hands. And then this healing warmth seemed to flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes.

"I forgive you, brother!" I cried. "With all my heart!"

For a long moment we grasped each other's hands, the former guard and the former prisoner. I had never known God's love so intensely as I did then." – **Corrie Ten Boome**

Corrie went on to heal from that encounter while offering healing to that guard. She also recounted in the future she still on a couple of occasions had a hard time forgiving, but if it was not for this encounter she would have never been able to offer forgiveness and heal more in the future. **Mercy is a choice not a feeling, and if we don't act on the command of scripture, we will miss out on the healing that only comes from God.**

[CHALLENGE]

² <https://guideposts.org/positive-living/guideposts-classics-corrie-ten-boom-forgiveness/#:~:text=%20forgive%20you%2C%20brother!,%20With%20all%20my%20heart!%20&text=For%20a%20long%20moment%20we,intensely%20as%20I%20did%20then.>



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Family I can honestly tell you that some of the greatest moments in my life, where I **grew in faith**, where I **gained the ability to love**, where I felt close to God is when I finally consented to show Mercy. Family who in your life needs Mercy, who in your life needs to hear you ask for forgiveness, are you willing like Corrie to trust God and act on the will first or do you have to feel it first? I pray her story has challenged you today like me, because I doubt any of us have encountered what she had.

If you have been changed by the Mercy of God my friend then I know you are able to give it, why don't you try today.

Now real briefly let's look at just a few practical ways in which to use Mercy, how do we practice giving it?

2. Uses of Mercy and the Ways to Give It.

Physical Blessings of Mercy

Since Mercy is a choice of the will and not a reaction to feelings, then to practice it, we can start with physical acts of kindness. Now remember Mercy is a compulsion to move on behalf of another, especially someone who doesn't necessarily deserve niceness. That's the whole point, Mercy comes to the aid of those in trouble by their own doing and it asks will you help absorb the cost?

Sometimes we have neighbors that keep tools too long, let them have it and buy another one. Choose to see their need for it, and help bear that cost.

Sometimes we have kids that are enduring the consequences of their behavior like not studying, so I will lovingly take up some slack on their chores, and let them know its' Mercy, and don't mistake kindness for weakness.

Sometimes you have friends that make stupid mistakes and their choices about life, go the extra mile and make sure you are available to talk when they need it.



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Sometimes practice Random Acts of Kindness, pick up someone's tab, help a stranger in distress, practice being a good neighbor even to those you may not know, and Make Mercy a part of your life.

Spiritual Blessings of Mercy

Learn to **Pity people** first before you start condemning them because of their choices. Remember you would be no different if not for the Grace of God. Instead of flying off the handle for someone's depravity, remember you were born into sin and unless God shows the man His corruption they will never change. Try Pity before sitting in anger. **Put yourself in their shoes.**

We can also be merciful to people by not letting them sit in sin. You can **prod them to repentance**. Titus chapter 2 Paul urges his brother to prod all those that need it, to rebuke them. It is Merciful not to allow people to just sit in their sin, it brings life, yes that is hard but it is a form of mercy.

Lastly we can also **Pray for people**. Prayer is one of the most powerful things we can do, for when you pray for people the HS will force you to be sincere about it. Pray for your enemies, pray that they may be changed, pray against the will of others, pray for correction, pray that God break inappropriate relationships, pray the people learn from their mistakes. Don't be afraid to pray and definitely don't be afraid to pray for hard things, but always be praying towards reconciliation, for that is the work of the church.

I have prayed for you today family that you can start taking seriously these suggestions for here is the truth of this matter today.

**Mercy is given freely by those whom
have been changed by it.**

So, when you choose to be merciful family make sure you tell them it was because you and received it first, and let them know what that great love has done for you.

[PRAYER]



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[CALL TO OBEY]

Ephesians 4:31-32

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Church, be merciful, as God in Christ has been merciful to you.

[COMMUNION]

Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus, that required Him to be a sojourner in our world, that like the victim in the Good Samaritan He was bruised for our iniquities, but unlike that man, chose to grant us Mercy, to show the Mercy of God towards us. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood. He spilled His blood for us freely even while it was our debt to pay, our covenant to fulfill, our place to be punished. By His wounds we are now healed and by His Mercy we are removed from having to pay such a weighty debt. Praise be to Him for His wonderful Love.

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand



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Elder – "Christians, what do you believe?"

LBCF 1689 9.5 of Christ the Mediator

5. Jesus Accomplished Reconciliation

By his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he offered up to God through the eternal Spirit, the Lord Jesus has

- fully satisfied the justice of God
- obtained reconciliation
- and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven

for everyone whom the Father has given to Jesus.

32. Hebrews 9:14, 10:14; Romans 3:25-26

33. John 17:2; Hebrews 9:15

[OFFERING+LAST SONG] -

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that instead of leaving us under His well-deserved wrath chose Mercy and sent His Son to cover the cost of sin.

Go in the name of the Son, that displayed Mercy to us, that while we were still sinners died for us, so we could be released from our debt of sin.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that has opened our eyes to His Mercy upon Mercies, that helps us to forgive others and restores our souls when we choose to be compassionate. Now go and tell the world of such a great love.



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Other Merciful Stories:

Luke 7:11-17 ESV

Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹²As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." ¹⁵And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" ¹⁷And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

Job 31:16-23 ESV

"If I have withheld anything that the poor desired,
or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail,
¹⁷or have eaten my morsel alone,
and the fatherless has not eaten of it
¹⁸(for from my youth the fatherless^[a] grew up with me as with a father,
and from my mother's womb I guided the widow^[b]),
¹⁹if I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing,
or the needy without covering,
²⁰if his body has not blessed me,^[c]
and if he was not warmed with the fleece of my sheep,
²¹if I have raised my hand against the fatherless,
because I saw my help in the gate,
²²then let my shoulder blade fall from my shoulder,
and let my arm be broken from its socket.
²³For I was in terror of calamity from God,
and I could not have faced his majesty.



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