

We Get What We Give
Series: The Beatitudes

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In the fifth beatitude, Jesus declares that if we want to experience happiness in our lives, we need to receive and give mercy.

Matthew 5:7 (NLT) *God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

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

In Jesus' teaching in this beatitude, it is clear that He is talking about God's mercy.

The Greek word used for *merciful* is the word from which we get the word benefactor.

The word is used in this form only one other time in the New Testament.

Hebrews 2:17 (NLT) *Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.*

Jesus is the High Priest who intercedes for us, and it is from Him that mercy comes.

In the Bible, mercy is a genuine compassion with a pure, unselfish motive that reaches out to help.

Mercy is a key truth in each of our lives, because without mercy, we could never experience release from the guilt that accompanies our sin. Nor could we release those who sin against us.

Throughout the Bible, we are taught the centrality of mercy.

Micah 6:8 (NLT) *O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

God wants us to fall in love with mercy, to lose ourselves in the beauty of mercy.

A jaw-dropping truth: Without guilt, there could be no mercy. Guilt is a terrible reality, but mercy is much more wonderful than guilt is terrible.

Learning to love mercy means we're eager to show mercy to others, too.

Our thoughts will turn from revenge to reconciliation as mercy permeates our soul and becomes our way of life.

Mercy invites us to admit our guilt, receive God's forgiveness, and then stop judging others.

James 2:13 (NLT) *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.*

We are blessed to be both recipients and givers of mercy.

God is the source of mercy. The only way to be a merciful person is to have God-given mercy within us.

Conclusion

There is a cycle involved when we experience mercy. God gives us mercy, we are merciful to others, and then God gives us more mercy.

Luke 6:36 (NIV) *Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*