



Blessed Are the Merciful

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”

— **Matthew 5:7**

Bible Texts: Matthew 5:1–12ⁱ (key verse: Matthew 5:7ⁱⁱ); Psalm 145:8ⁱⁱⁱ; Romans 5:10^{iv}; Ephesians 2:4^v; Lamentations 3:22–23^{vi}; Genesis 45^{vii}; Romans 12:19–21^{viii}; Proverbs 3:27^{ix}; Galatians 6:2^x; James 2:13^{xi}.

Jesus’ fifth Beatitude calls believers beyond sympathy into action. Pastor Mike described biblical mercy as “love moving toward misery.” The sermon opened with Chris Carrier, who forgave David McAllister—the man who had kidnapped and nearly killed him as a child—then led him to Christ and cared for him near the end of his life. That story presses Jesus’ words upon us: kingdom people do not live by keeping score; they learn to extend the mercy they have received from God.

1. Mercy Begins with God Moving Toward Us

Mercy begins with God, not with us. Scripture describes Him as gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and rich in steadfast love. At the center of the gospel, God moved toward us in Jesus Christ. The cross reveals both the seriousness of our sin and the greater depth of God’s mercy. Pastor Mike distinguished mercy from grace this way: mercy is God not giving us the judgment we deserve; grace is God giving us what we do not deserve—His righteousness in Christ. Grace addresses our guilt; mercy addresses our misery. Because God has drawn near to us, His people should increasingly resemble Him by drawing near to others.

Reflection: Where have I most clearly experienced God’s mercy, and how should that change the way I treat others?

2. Mercy Forgives Those Who Wrong Us

Forgiveness is one of mercy’s clearest expressions. Wrongdoing creates a real debt: trust may be broken, time lost, money spent, or emotional wounds left behind. Forgiveness does not pretend the cost disappeared; it chooses not to collect the personal debt. Someone must absorb the cost, which is why forgiveness can be painful. This closely reflects the gospel: Christ bore the debt we could never pay. Joseph’s response to his brothers in Genesis 45 gives a vivid picture. Though they had betrayed him, he refused revenge, drew them near, and provided for them.

Forgiveness also does not call evil good, erase wise boundaries, or instantly restore trust. A relationship may need time and healthy limits. Yet even while trust is rebuilt, believers can release vengeance to God. Romans 12 reminds us that justice belongs to Him. At its heart, forgiveness asks whether we trust God to settle what we cannot.



THE BEATITUDES Series • Sermon Recap

Reflection: Is there an apology, explanation, repayment, or acknowledgment I need God's help to release?

3. Mercy Bears the Burdens of Those Who Suffer

Mercy is not only about people who have hurt us; it is also about hurting people around us. In the Good Samaritan, mercy crossed the road, took a risk, gave time, treated wounds, and paid for care. Feeling sorry for someone is not the same as showing mercy. Mercy asks, "What can I do?" It may mean providing a meal, giving a ride, making a phone call, offering financial help, visiting someone in the hospital, or simply staying close to a grieving person. Galatians 6:2 calls us to bear one another's burdens. Compassion becomes mercy when it intentionally moves into action, even when that action costs us time, convenience, energy, or money.

Reflection: Who has God placed in my path whose burden I can help carry in a practical way this week?

4. Mercy Is the Blessed Way of Life

Pastor Mike closed with three reasons to choose mercy. **First**, God has already been merciful to us; no debt we forgive compares with the mercy we have received in Christ. **Second**, we will need mercy again. Showing mercy does not earn salvation, but a heart transformed by God's mercy becomes a merciful heart—James says that "mercy triumphs over judgment." **Third**, mercy brings freedom. Resentment and bitterness keep old wounds in control, while forgiveness gives control back to God. Mercy does not purchase the kingdom; it identifies people who increasingly reflect the character of their Father.

Reflection: Where is resentment still holding part of my heart, and what would it look like to entrust that wound to God?

Closing Thought

The sermon's bottom line was simple and searching: kingdom people forgive quickly and stay close to those who are hurting. The merciful forgive because they have been forgiven, and they draw near to suffering because God drew near to them. Ask the Holy Spirit to loosen your grip on resentment, open your eyes to need, and make the mercy of Christ visible through you.



THE BEATITUDES Series • Sermon Recap

ⁱ **Matthew 5:1–12** — The Beatitudes describe the character and blessings of those who belong to God’s kingdom: humility, mourning over sin, meekness, hunger for righteousness, mercy, purity, peacemaking, and faithfulness under persecution.

ⁱⁱ **Matthew 5:7 (ESV)**: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

ⁱⁱⁱ **Psalms 145:8** — The LORD is gracious, merciful, patient, and overflowing with steadfast love.

^{iv} **Romans 5:10** — Though we were God’s enemies, Christ’s death reconciled us to God; His risen life assures our salvation.

^v **Ephesians 2:4** — God is rich in mercy because of His great love for us.

^{vi} **Lamentations 3:22–23** — God’s steadfast love and mercies never fail; they are renewed every morning.

^{vii} **Genesis 45** — Joseph reveals himself to his brothers and responds to their wrongdoing with forgiveness, mercy, and confidence in God’s providence.

^{viii} **Romans 12:19–21** — Do not take personal revenge; leave judgment to God, do good even to enemies, and overcome evil with good.

^{ix} **Proverbs 3:27** — Do not withhold good from someone when you have the ability to help.

^x **Galatians 6:2** — Christians are to carry one another’s burdens, fulfilling the law of Christ.

^{xi} **James 2:13** — Judgment is severe toward the unmerciful, while mercy triumphs over judgment.