

# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## The Good Life

**BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL**

FEBRUARY, 21, 2021

### RECAP

This Sunday, we looked at “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” In America today we are facing a lot of divisiveness. It often feels like we are in a school of piranhas, waiting for people who we disagree with to be devoured. We were reminded that to seek justice without mercy makes the oppressed become the oppressor and the cycle of violence continues.

We looked at the story of the Good Samaritan found in Luke 10. In this shocking story the person that stops and help the man in need is the hated Samaritan, but in his sacrifice we see that “our neighbors” are not just the people that live near us or look like us but rather all people. We were challenged to follow the example of the Samaritan and love all people, bestowing mercy, just as Christ has done for us.

### PRACTICES

We’re introducing practices for your group to adopt as you study the life and teachers of Jesus. Check in with your group on how they’re going:

- **Scripture Memorization** - Verse-by-verse we’ll be memorizing the beatitudes together. This week spend some time meditating on and memorizing Matthew 5:7.
- **Prayer and Fasting** - Set a prayer and fasting goal as a group this season, whether it's once this season, once a month, or one meal a week. Let’s anchor our community in shared perseverance and practice.

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

#### Connect

What is something that brought you unexpected happiness this week?

#### Check-In

When is a time in your life that someone showed you mercy when you did not deserve it?

#### Contemplate

Read the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37.

- What stands out to you about the actions of the different people in this story?
- Based on this passage, what do you think it means to have mercy on someone?

#### Consider

We were reminded that because Jesus died for everyone, loving you neighbor means loving everyone. How does this challenge the way you interact with people you disagree with or who have different beliefs than you?

What would it look like for you to honor the image of God in someone that the world would expect you to ignore?

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### **Create**

Take a few minutes to reflect on these questions:

- Who are the people around you that you are “not suppose” to love?
- How are you being asked to have compassion on them this week/month/year?

Feel free to write these down/make a list for yourself. Consider sharing them with a friend or small group so you can pray about them together and encourage each other.

### **Cover**

Pray for the people or groups that the Spirit has brought to your mind. Ask for discernment about how to “go and do the same” as the Good Samaritan, and to have the courage to step forward, as Jesus did for us, with mercy and compassion.

