

Sermon Notes

Big Idea: Jesus' first sermon was designed to help his followers redefine what a relationship with God was truly about. The blessed life can be measured by how well you display certain Christ-like qualities. This week we'll start with mercy.

The Christian life is not primarily about what you're doing, but who you're becoming.

Matthew 5:1-7 (NIV)

Step One: Humility | Step Two: Brokenness | Step Three: Surrender | Step Four: Dependence

Result One: Mercy

Matthew 18:21-35 (ESV)

The Mercy Test: Do people regularly experience God's mercy through me?

Matthew 20:30-34 (NLT)

Luke 18:19-14 (NLT)

Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) Are you bought in to the notion that your love for others will always be a result of your love for God? Explain?
- 3) Read Matthew 18:21-35. How often do you think about the debt that God has forgiven you of? How do you know if you've genuinely received God's mercy in your heart?
- 4) How would you answer the mercy test: Do people regularly experience God's mercy through me?
- 5) Read Luke 18:19-14. Have you ever found yourself praying (or thinking) like the Pharisee in this story? How about like the tax collector? When in doubt, go back to Step One: Humility.