

## Blessed - Sermon 6 - The Merciful Matthew 5:7

- **October 13** - Friend Day. Sunday school Teachers, personally contact everyone on your roll. Special Guest American Idol star John Glossan - Invite!!! Trophy to the small group with the highest attendance.
- **Deacon Nominations** - Nominate as many as you want.

**INTRODUCTION:** We are in a series of sermons we are calling, “Blessed”.

Remember in our introduction to this series we said that the state of being blessed was a word that outside of scripture was only used in reference the Pantheon of Greek Gods and Goddesses...

We said that biblically it was a word used to denote the - **Power, Presence, and Provision** of God.

We also learned that the first word of the first sermon Jesus ever preached was, “Blessed”. God wants you to live the Blessed Life. And the beatitudes are a prescriptive for just that.

**Four weeks ago:** We saw that those who recognized their **Spiritual Poverty** were blessed of God. This week we are in verse 4... let’s look at it together.

**Three weeks ago:** We saw that those who **mourn** are uniquely positioned to receive God’s blessing.

**Two weeks ago:** We learned that the **Meek** are blessed for they shall inherit the earth.

**Last week:** We learned the blessing of the spiritual appetite...

This week Jesus turns outward in the expressions of the godly attitude.

You see spiritual poverty is inward. Mourning is inward, Meekness is inward, hungering for God is inward.

But look at this weeks beatitude...

**TEXT: Matthew 5:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

That’s outward, that is something you express to others. Mercy is the first outworking of the poor spirit, the meek spirit, the hungry spirit... mercy is the first overflow.

First of all let me explain to you what mercy is not;

## 1) Mercy is not softness

### ILLUSTRATION;

I heard about a meeting the other day, and they were discussing somebody that they wanted to do something that took a little courage, and they said, **Don't get him. He wouldn't kill a snake in a nursery.** Well, that's soft enough, that's but that's not necessarily mercy.

## 2) Mercy is not Sentiment

I know people who will cry at the drop of a hat and provide the hat yet they have no mercy.

### ILLUSTRATION;

Do you ever watch these reality shows where a camera man and a reporter is watching some tragedy unfold.

- A woman being swept away by a river
- A black man being beaten by police
- A couple being robbed by some thief

The reporter will always say, and look no one is helping!!

**Do you ever think to yourself, "Why don't you put the camera down and get over there and help him yourself????"**

## What is MERCY? Compassion in Action

### 1) The Basics of Mercy

vrs. 7 Blessed are the merciful...

"Eleeo" is the Greek word translated as Mercy. It has the connotation of one who bestows favor upon another... so another way to think of this verse is Blessed are the Blessers.

**The key passage that that teaches us about Mercy is the parable of the GOOD SAMARITAN**

**LUKE 10** <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead."

Now the road from Jerusalem to Jericho was all downhill.

- **Jerusalem** represents the **heavenly city**

- **Jericho** represents the **hellish city** (Remember that is where Rahab the Harlot lived)

\*Along that long winding road between the two cities there were crevices in the rocks where thieves would hide out to ambush some unsuspecting traveler. The man in the story was attacked, robbed, and left for dead.

Three people came by -

**a) The Priest** - Now the priest may be ritualistically unclean if he touched this man... so he passes by. The priest represents RITUAL.

**b) The Levite** - The Levites were students of God's law...The Levite represents RULES... but he passes by.

**c) The Samaritan** - The Jews had zero respect for the samaritans... they were not considered in the covenant community. They were outcasts. They were the people who were left behind after the Jews were taken into captivity. They intermarried with the Pagans of the land. Then they set up a religion in competition with Judaism. It was unheard up in that day for a Jew to speak of a Good Samaritan.

Luke 10:33–37 (ESV)

<sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" <sup>37</sup> He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

NOW - Ritual passes by the hurting man.... Rules pass by the hurting man.... But Mercy doesn't pass by.

- The **Priest** represents Ritual - I've seen Churches full of rituals, bathed in liturgy, but ***I have never seen rituals help a hurting soul.***
- The **Levite** represent Rules - Rules can tell you where you went wrong, but they can't solve the problem.

The Law is like a mirror, it can show you the dirt on your face... but it can't cleanse it... for cleansing you need a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins... sinners plunged beneath that flood loose all their guilty stains.

**A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out.**

A SUBJECTIVE person came along and said: "I FEEL for you, down there."

A SCIENTOLOGIST came along: "You only THINK that you are in a pit."  
 A FUNDAMENTALIST said: "Only BAD people fall into a pit."  
 A NEWS REPORTER wanted the exclusive story on his pit.  
 CONFUCIUS said; "If you would have listened to me, you would not be in that pit."  
 BUDDHA said: "Your pit is only a state of mind."  
 A REALIST said: "That's a PIT."  
 An CALVINIST came along and said:" You were preordained to be in that pit."  
 The FERNANDINA BEACH CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER asked if he had a permit to dig a pit.  
 A PROFESSOR gave him a lecture on: "The Elementary Principles of the Pit."  
 A HEALTH AND WEALTH PREACHER said: "Just CONFESS that you're not in a pit."  
 An OPTIMIST said: "Things COULD be worse."  
 A PESSIMIST said: "Things WILL get worse!!"

***JESUS, seeing the man, took him by the hand and LIFTED HIM OUT of the pit.***

You go outside these doors, and you'll find that there are three classes of people. It doesn't matter if it's Nassau county, Jacksonville, Fernandina

- **beater-uppers**
- **the passer-uppers**
- **picker-uppers.**

Mercy is when compassion does something - compassion in action...

Not only the basics of mercy, but the....

## **2) The Blessing of Mercy**

blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy...

This is what I call, the Golden Rule Principal. God treats you as if you are living by the golden rule.

- **If you are merciful, God treats you as if you want to receive mercy.**
- **If you do not show mercy God treats you as if you do not wish to receive mercy. This concept is all throughout the bible...**

### **Mat. 7:2**

<sup>2</sup>For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

### **James 3:13**

<sup>13</sup>For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

**Psalm 18:25**

"With the merciful you will show yourself merciful; with an upright man you will show yourself upright."

My dear friend, when you're upright, then you show mercy. And when you show mercy, you get more mercy. The more mercy we show, the more mercy we get.

**THE KEY TO GIVING MERCY IS A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR NEED FOR MERCY.**

**ILLUSTRATION:** D. L. Moody was one of the most influential Christians of his generation. He led thousands of people to faith and established many institutions of education and training. He was famous for saying, ***"Right now I'm having so much trouble with D. L. Moody that I don't have time to find fault with the other fellow."*** He is the God of the second chance.

**David Jeremiah tells the story** of a Pastor who had a Deacon in his church who was a perfectionist about everyone and everything. The deacon heard something about a Church member whom he did not like. This particular Sunday school member had been asked to teach a Sunday School Class. Well the Pastor said he got a phone call from this deacon. The deacon wanted to have a specially called deacons meeting to expose some matter concerning his fellow member who was asked to teach a Sunday school class. The thing he wanted to expose was absolutely nothing of any significance. As the meeting opened the Pastor said, "I began to see what was going on with this perfectionist unmerciful deacon. So I said I will be happy to hear the rest of the story if I can tell you a story first. And this is the story he told,

In one of the great and largest Churches in Christendom a man was asked to preach a sermon. **The man known as a loud mouth was sometimes sincere but mostly in trouble.** And it was known that under **emotional pressure on one occasion he had uttered some curse words, in fact on one occasion he had been heard taking the lords name in vain.** And he had **lead some believers astray from Christ's teaching** into wrong doctrine. I asked the teachers if they thought it proper that this kind of man should have been asked to preach the sermon in that Church. **They could not believe that I would even ask them such a question. All together they said, "no sir a man like that is not fit to be preaching"**. Gentlemen I said, "The man I have just describe is the Apostle Peter". Who preached the first sermon in the Jerusalem Church and on the day of Pentecost. Several weeks before that occasion he denied the lord, he cursed using profanity, he led the disciples back to fishing when they had been told to go and preach. And God set him aside to preach the inaugural sermon for the Christian Church. ***I sure am glad God doesn't treat me the way some folks do aren't you?***

**Someone said,** *"There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it hardly behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us. "*

*Well we saw the basics and the blessing of mercy, now let's look at...*

### **3) The Balance of Mercy**

In a study of Spiritual gifts, it was determined 30% of the church has the gift of mercy. What does that mean? That means mercy is second nature to them... it comes natural. For the rest of us, we must be very intentional and thoughtful... ***but there is also a risk of hurting through helping.***

**Psalm 85:10**, "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other."

The Balance of Mercy is Truth. Think about:

1. **Our Perspective Should be Immediate rather than Global** - every problem becomes your problem, every stress your stress. So let me encourage you focus locally first and let's tackle the larger issues corporately as a team.

So when it comes to you as an individual... be like the good Samaritan... look around you... Hey, here's an idea... start with your family!

Have you noticed that the hardest people to show mercy to is your family?

ILLUSTRATION: Have you ever been in a middle of a heated argument and phone rings? Hello :)

So start with the world around you...

2. **Understand the Complexity of Need** - For example, some need is produced by sin and the best thing that can happen to a person is for sin to have it's full effect.

Have you ever considered if the prodigal son had met some modern churches... he would have never gone home to the father? Why? All of his needs are met.

If you are meeting a physical need... never do it with cash.  
Beware of enabling

3. **In showing mercy you do not excuse sin.**

Remember Jesus when they brought to him a woman who was caught in adultery, in the very act..(Which by the way, where was the man?)

Jesus had mercy on the woman, and said he who is without sin cast the first

stone..... **Then remember the end of it, go and sin no more.**

To show mercy is not to minimize sin. I have said this time and again.

**Vance Havner said,** "Jesus didn't come to rub your sin in, he came to rub it out. "

**Rather than put them in their place, put yourself in their place.**