

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **UPSIDE DOWN** – *The Beatitudes* – Matthew 5:1-12

Message: **Part 6 – Mercy Me** - Matthew 5:7

November 24, 2019. Speaker: Terrance Froese – Spiritual Formation Pastor



Connect (15-20min) – share refreshments.

a. Life Group “Family Photo”

*Plan to take some Life Group Photos to send it to Pastor Eryn for our Church Year End Video...

b. Advent Focus

*Do you have any plans, traditions for the **Christmas/Advent Season** to help focus your heart (or family) on Christ at Christmas? Any suggestions/resources that you’d recommend for reading/devotions/prayer?

c. Read [Lamentations 3:22-23](#); [Micah 6:8](#); [1 Peter 1:3](#) and Open in Prayer.

Sunday Message Discussion (35-40min)

1. Invite one person read the Beatitudes in [Matthew 5:1-12](#) and open in Prayer:

> **We challenge you to memorize this passage by December 8!**

2. The BIG IDEA: *Experiencing God’s love & mercy empowers us to have mercy & love for others.*

Message Feedback: Share your initial feedback on Sunday’s Message. *What impacted you the most and why?

3. Before Sunday’s Message – *how would you have defined or described Mercy to someone?*

4. Have Mercy! -- The Bible mentions Mercy 340 times -- that’s more often than Faith.

Read the following translations of Matthew 5:7 of out loud:

- a. **“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”** (New International Version - NIV)
- b. **“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”** (New American Standard Version - NASB)
- c. **“Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.”** (New King James Version - NKJV)

*Do you see any difference in the way this is translated? What might the translators be trying to emphasize?

5. Read [Matthew 9:9-13](#) – *Jesus Calls Matthew/Levi.*

a. Name the different perspectives represented in this story? (Jesus, Tax Collectors, Pharisees, Disciples)

b. Why do you think Jesus’ quoted [Hosea 6:6](#) (in verse 13 of Mt.9)? Are you familiar with the story of Hosea?

“For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and the acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.” (NIV)

c. Read [Hosea 6:6](#) from the NLT version:

“I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices, I want you to know me, more than I want burnt offerings.” (NLT)

d. The Hebrew word for Mercy here is “Hesed/Chesed”

- “Hesed” is translated as Love 129 times, Kindness 41 times, and Unfailing-Love 23 times.

e. Assuming both translations are trying to properly translate the Hebrew word, how do you think “Love & Mercy” in this context, are the same?

f. Check out [Matthew 12:1-7](#) to see another context where Jesus quotes [Hosea 6:6](#) -- does it help?

- 12:7 “But you would not have condemned my innocent disciples if you knew the meaning of this scripture...”

6. Read [Matthew 18:21-35](#) – *Parable of the King & the Unforgiving Debtor*

*Jesus used this story or parable to show what the Kingdom of God (or Heaven) is like.

- a. Considering this story, how God’s Kingdom “Upside Down” from the Kingdoms of the World?
- b. Why might the King forgive the one who owed him so much?
- c. Why might the one forgiven so much, not have time to “Wait” (v.30)?
- d. From what we have learned about *Mercy*, how is it difference than having *Pity*?
- e. **Mercy** is God not punishing us as our sins deserve, and **Grace** is God blessing us despite the fact that we do not deserve it. **Mercy** is deliverance from judgment. **Grace** is extending kindness to the unworthy.

The Blessing & Challenge of Mercy - from Dr. Tony Evans:

“Mercy - is not getting you what you do deserve. To express mercy is to seek to remove the misery that someone is going through, even if they deserve it. Mercy is not just feeling sorry, it is a tangible act of removing the misery. There’s a blessing for those who show mercy because you can bet your bottom dollar there is coming a day in your life when you’re going to need mercy – when you’re going to want God not to give you all you deserve. You’re going to want God to hold back, and not give you what you deserve. You’re going to want mercy dispensed to you. Blessed are those show mercy, for they will receive mercy. On the day you need it God is going to check your record to see whether you gave it. This is one of the great blessings of God, that you can call of God for the mercy that you showed someone in their day of misery, when you need it.”

7. a. Pastor Terrance said *“Mercy given may have no ROI (return on investment) externally in this earthly kingdom, but internally and eternally in the Kingdom of God.”*
- b. From God – as *“Unmerited Favor”*
From Us – as *Loving Kindness* to someone who we feel is not deserving of any, since we know that we are even unworthy, and yet forgiven and received by God.

8. **Mercy Received & Mercy Applied**

- a. What are **God’s Blessings** in being Merciful?
- b. Is there any area of your life where you have recently experienced (or need to experience) God’s Mercy?
- c. Without sharing their details...is there a person who needs mercy from you?
- d. What might Mercy cost you?
 - i. If neither received nor shared?
 - ii. If received, but not shared?
 - iii. If received and shared?

Application (5min)

1. Read [Luke 6:36](#). Do a Scripture Study on Mercy this week: <http://www.openbible.info/topics/mercy>
2. Thank the Lord for the mercy He has shown us by giving us His Son to die for our sin and in Mercy forgive us.
Thank Him for the power to now extend that mercy to others.
3. Extend Mercy to Others through prayer, words & actions this week – in your family and community.

Prayer (20min)

>> **Based on our topic and discussion let’s Share our requests, Praise God together, and Pray for one another.**

*Pray for the person on your right in these three areas:

1. Pray for their *Faith* & spiritual growth
 2. Pray for their *Family/Friends*
 3. Pray for their *Focus* (work/school...)
- *Pray for the participants (over 70 people) at our first **EMPOWER Retreat** – Nov.29-30.

Announcements

*Our NEXT LIFE GROUP MEETING: DATE / TIME / LOCATION. SNACK DUTY: _____.

- >> Plan a week to share **Communion** together as a Life Group each month.
- >> Plan your **Group Christmas Party** / Final Group before the Christmas break.
- >> Take a **Group Photo** or two to send in to Pastor Eryn for the Year End Video.

Upcoming UPSIDEDOWN Series Schedule:

December 1 – **Baptism Sunday**.

December 8 – **When No Ones Looking** (Matthew 5:8).

December 15 – **How to Reconcile Relationships** (Matthew 5:9)

Christmas Season at Main Street Church

Christmas Parade

Sat. December 7th. 5:30pm (come early to get parking &/or serve...). We have a band and float entered into the Parade.

***Life Group Serving Opportunity**: Our main foyer will be open with hot chocolate and washrooms available for the community.

If you or your Life Group would be interested in helping please contact Pastor Eryn and he'll put you in touch with Jillian McCaughan.

www.chilliwackchristmasparade.com

Christmas HOPE Campaign 2019

The Special Offering for our annual *Christmas Hope Campaign* is open until Sun. December 8th.

*Our Referral List is FULL – we are no longer receiving new referrals.

***Assembly Day** is Fri. December 13th. Starting at 7pm in our Chapel.

***Delivery Day** is Sat. December 14th. Starting at 10am from our Chapel.

*Staff Contact: Eryn Moore.

Christmas Comedy Night – with Special Guest - **Steve Geyer**

This is our Christmas Outreach event and geared towards us inviting friends and family from the community.

Thur. December 12. Refreshments provided. This event is for ages 12 & up.

7pm. Tickets - \$10/person. Available at Guest Services and the Church Office in November.

<https://stevegeyer.us>

Sun. December 22 : Christmas Sweater Sunday

Wear your favorite or funniest festive swag.

9am & 10:45am

Tue. December 24 : Christmas Eve Services

3pm / 4:30pm / 6pm (1hr)

Sun. December 29 : Worship & Communion

9am & 10:45am