



July 13, 2025

PART FIVE

Mercy Comes Around Again

Matthew 5:7; Galatians 5:22

Synopsis: *While a person who embraces the posture of mercy invites in the suffering of empathy and intervention, such a suffering is generously compensated by divine mercy in return, and it seeds the unmerciful world system with a subversive presence that has potential to topple the steeled heart and sabotage the immutable law of sowing and reaping.*

The Beatitudes Twist

The Divine Conspiracy, by Dallas Willard (1998)

Instead of recommended postures with rewards, these are suffering states (cf. **Luke 6:20-23**)

Each deficit, in contact with the kingdom of God, reverses course into a trajectory of blessedness

Overlaying the 9 fruits of the Spirit with the 9 Beatitudes: today mercy pairs with kindness

The Merciful

Mercy is a posture that sees need/problems with an empathy that moves one into action

Mercy is a form of suffering: empathy versus sympathy

A voluntary double-suffering: to feel another's pain and to take pains to help

Often mercy involves loss of one's rightful due: money owed, offense forgiven

The alternatives to the merciful: the law-keeper, the self-centered, the steeled heart

Shall Receive Mercy?

The immutable law of reaping what we sow: **Galatians 6:7; Proverbs 11:25**

The law-keeper's law, the self-centered's self, and the steeled heart's locked room

Everyone falls in a hole sometime and the deep longing to be understood

The kingdom of Jesus is where mercy triumphs over judgment: **James 2:13**

Mercy a sweeter aroma than sacrifice: **Hosea 6:6; Matthew 9:13, 12:7**

Mercy is the prized commodity in the kingdom of Jesus and dwarfs the suffering with joy: **Matthew 5:7, 13:44**

The Fruit of the Spirit of Kindness: Galatians 5:22

Kindness is a close sibling to mercy; the inclination to show mercy, the action that follows mercy

God's kindness leads to repentance, which undoes the immutable law of sow/reap: **Romans 2:4**

Our kindness follows suit and has power to sabotage the law-keeper, the self-centered, and the steeled heart

Merciful kindness wins divine mercy **and** seeds the unmerciful world with potential reversal of its trajectory