

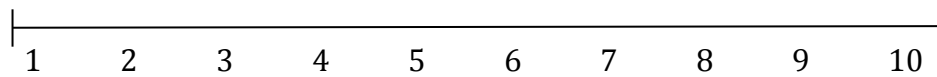


"Blessed are the merciful"

February 5, 2017

How would you define "mercy": _____

Rate yourself. How merciful are you? (1 not one ounce of mercy, 10 extreme mercy)



Using the same scale, how would those who know you best rate you?

1. **Our desire: justice or mercy?**

Matthew 5:1-7, Matthew 18:23-25

2. **Our surprise at mercy.**

Matthew 5:7, Matthew 18:26-27

3. **Our response to mercy.**

Matthew 5:7, Matthew 18:28-35

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.

Group/Family/Personal Study Questions

"Being a merciful, forgiving or loving person is not a condition for God's grace, but it is a necessary consequence." F. Dale Bruner (Commentary on Matthew 5:7)

Read Matthew 5:1-12 and Matthew 18:23-35.

1. How would you define mercy? Share one or two examples of mercy.
2. What does the world need more of: justice or mercy? Which do you need? Why?
3. Why is mercy so unexpected and so surprising? Have you received mercy?
4. What does being merciful to others look like? Share practical ways to be merciful.
5. Are there some people who do not deserve mercy? Explain.
6. Is it possible for a person who receives God's mercy to be unmerciful? Explain
7. Do Sunday's passages teach that only those who are merciful receive mercy?

Reflection/Action:

Spend 5-10 minutes talking (praying) honestly with God about the mercy He offers you. Do you want His mercy? Spend another 10-15 minutes asking God to reveal whom you need to be merciful to.