



## Connect Discussion Guide

### 07.11.21 Message | Tyler Myers | Matthew 5:7

#### Key Scriptures:

*“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”*

- Matthew 5:7

*“Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.”*

- Matthew 18:21–22

*“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors...For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

- Matthew 6:12, 14-15

*“Therefore, the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.”*

- Isaiah 30:18

*“But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”*

- Genesis 50:19–21

#### Message Highlights:

- Mercy is a currency you can invest in with full assurance of a return.
- A merciful person is someone who shows leniency, compassion, or forgiveness; especially towards someone who has offended them.
- “You are a steward of every moment, of every talent, of every gift, of every resource that God has given you. Choose wisely what you do today!” - Paul Washer
- To be merciful is not to be soft but rather to trust in God’s sovereignty.
- “Truth without Grace is mean. Grace without truth is meaningless.” - Gene Appel

**Conversation Starter:**

Currency is something that continues to shift throughout the ages; discuss with your group some examples of the ebbs and flows Tyler mentioned in the sermon, and feel free to offer some of your own ideas. Have you ever considered the concept of currency within the Kingdom of God? Share your first impressions of this concept of the currency of mercy.

**Discuss the Message:**

1. Why do you think Peter asked Jesus how many times we are supposed to forgive those who sin against us? What do you think of Jesus' response?
2. Read Genesis 50:19-21. Considering what Joseph's brothers had done to him, how do you imagine he was able to forgive them? How did God work through Joseph's demonstration of mercy? What impact did Joseph's forgiveness have on their family? What impact did it have on their community?
3. Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." In what ways is showing forgiveness and mercy towards others a demonstration of trust in God and his promises to us?
4. How do we detach from the idea that being merciful equates to being soft? What does being merciful require of us, and how does that process actually strengthen us?
5. Where have you not received mercy that is callusing the way you extend mercy? In what ways did this sermon equip you to draw strength from the Lord as you seek to be merciful to those around you?

**Pray:**

*Gracious Father, we thank you for the great mercy that you have shown us. In light of your abundant mercy, we desire to be merciful to others. Yet, we confess that forgiveness and mercy do not come naturally to us. Help us by your Holy Spirit to rid our lives of unforgiveness. Jesus, you alone are the perfect example of justice and patience, grace and truth. May the power of your grace and forgiveness flow through our lives into the lives of those around us. Amen.*