

The Sermon on the Mount: The Beatitudes (5) “Blessed are the Merciful”

📖 Matthew 5:7 (NIV) “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

Mercy is [one of God’s fundamental attributes.](#)

📖 Exodus 34:6 (NLT) “The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, “Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.”

📖 Lamentations 3:22–23 (ESV) “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

📖 Ephesians 2:4–5 (NIV) “But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”

Mercy is [compassion in action.](#)

📖 Luke 10:29–37 (NIV) “...he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ ³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

📖 Isaiah 53:3 (NIV) “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.”

Mercy is [meant to be forwarded.](#)

📖 Matthew 5:7 (NIV) “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

📖 Matthew 18:21–22 (NIV) “Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” ²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

1. What mercy **received** looks like:

 Matthew 18:23–27 (NIV) “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.”

2. What mercy **refused** looks like:

 Matthew 18:28–30 (NIV) “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. ²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ ³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.”

3. What mercy **revoked** looks like:

 Matthew 18:31–35 (NIV) “When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

 Micah 6:8 (NIV) “He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Digging Deeper— What is the best example of “mercy” that you have seen? What does knowing that “God’s mercies are new every morning” mean to you? Do you consider the debt that Jesus paid in  your life to be extravagant? If you have been forgiven, why is it so hard to forgive others? **Dealing with resentment:** Who is the object of your resentment? What action did that person take that hurt you? What effect did that action have on your life? What damage did their actions do to your life? What part of the resentment are you responsible for?