



WHAT **JESUS** SAID ABOUT...

Mercy, Purity, Peacemaking, & Persecution (Mt. 5:7-12)



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The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' most comprehensive statement about our role in cooperating with grace. We need faith teaching to equip us to experience grace to walk in the 8 Beatitudes.



WHAT **JESUS** SAID ABOUT...

1. The first four beatitudes are attitudes that the world sees as negative qualities. We are to be poor in spirit (v. 3), mourn for more (v. 4), be meek (v. 5), and hunger for God (v. 6).



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2. The second four beatitudes are attitudes that the world sees as positive qualities. We seek to be merciful (v. 7) with the sins and weakness of others. We seek to be pure (v. 8), to make peace (v. 9), and to endure in persecution without complaining (v. 10-12).



WHAT **JESUS** SAID ABOUT...

5. BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL (MT. 5:7)



WHAT **JESUS** SAID
ABOUT...

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



WHAT **JESUS** SAID
ABOUT...

A. Receiving and giving mercy is essential to our happiness and greatness. Being merciful is not a call to be casual about sin with “unsanctified mercy.” God is equally merciful, holy, and just.

God gives mercy to give His people a new beginning so that they would fear God (Ps. 130:4).

4 But there is forgiveness with
You, that You may be feared. (Ps.
130:4)



WHAT **JESUS** SAID
ABOUT...

B. There are various ways to express mercy. We are called to be tender towards those who mistreat us and complain against us, who annoy us, who are different, who are less committed to God than we are, who make mistakes, who stumble in scandalous sins, and especially those who suffer and are in great need due to poverty, sickness, oppression, persecution, or other trials.

We are to help people in all these categories to feel accepted and valued by both God and His people.

12 Put on tender mercies,
kindness, humility, meekness,
longsuffering; 13 bearing with
one another, and forgiving one
another, if anyone has a
complaint against another; even
as Christ forgave you, so you
also must do. (Col. 3:12-13)

1. To those who mistreat us: Jesus calls us to give mercy to those who mistreat us by lying about us or by taking what is ours (our position, money, honor, people, etc.). He calls us to give mercy to those we work closely with, even if they speak untrue things about us.

This type of mercy is a work of grace in us that submits to Jesus' authority. It is more than natural kindness.

44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. (Mt. 5:44)

2. To those who are suffering: To be merciful is to seek to help people who are suffering. God's mercy stirs our heart and moves our hand to help those in need. Jesus gives an illustration of showing mercy in the parable of the good Samaritan (Lk. 10:25-37).

When we are moved to action to help those in difficult circumstances, we are seeking to reduce the miseries of others even if it requires denying our personal comfort. In a spirit of kindness, we sympathize with the difficulties of others so much that we take action.

17 Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love [mercy] of God abide in him?

(1 Jn. 3:17)

3. To those who stumble in scandalous sin: To be merciful to people who experience significant spiritual failure, to cover people's failures and tenderly seek to help them. It causes us to sympathize with those who deserve the trouble that they are in. It is not "unsanctified mercy," but it is the quality of mercy that agrees with God (Phil. 1:9-10).

Philippians 1:9-10 (NASB)

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may [a]approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless [b]until the day of Christ;

C. We typically give mercy to the measure that we understand that we have received it from God.

When we lack mercy, it is a sign that we do not clearly see the mercy that God has given us.

When we think we have been treated unfairly (in being overlooked by God and His people), then we are not able to be genuinely gracious towards others. The fuel that helps us resist our natural anger and annoyance towards others is gratitude for receiving mercy that we do not deserve. We have each received far more forgiveness (after we were born again) than we perceive.

D. Justice gives what we deserve and mercy receives what we do not deserve. God always gives at least what we deserve because He is just. Yet, He is free to give more than what we deserve. Our life is so full of God's mercy in receiving so much more than we really deserve.

We can easily overlook the fact that we do not deserve the house, car, possessions, or position that we have. We can compare our lack of blessing and honor with others and conclude that we did not get what we deserved. Others with more blessing received more than they deserved (Mt. 20:1-16).

E. The measure of our gratitude
is the measure of our
understanding of the mercy that
we received.

The measure of our anger is the
measure of our lack of
understanding of the mercy we
received.

F. God delights in showing us mercy. He wants us to delight in this by the work of the Spirit in us. Jesus longs to heal sinful people, even those who sin against us. He wants us to be a part of His redemptive plan for our enemies. To do this, we must embrace His tenderness toward them.

18 Who is a God like You,
pardoning iniquity and passing
over the transgression of the
remnant...? He does not retain
His anger forever, because He
delights in mercy. (Mic. 7:18)