

Happy are the Merciful

Series: Jesus Uncut – Sermon on the Mount
– Matthew 5:7 –

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

1. The Explanation

* Mercy (GK: *eleos*) is compassion leading to action.

– Luke 10:30-37

– I John 4:9-10

2. The Expression

* Mercy enables us to be patient with people

* Mercy equips us to forgive those who have fallen

* Mercy engages us to help those who are hurting

* Mercy empowers us to bless our enemies

Application Questions. . .

1. What part of the text or message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged, intrigued, or challenged?
2. Jesus says the merciful will be shown mercy. Why do you think our treatment of others will affect God's treatment of us (or will it)?
3. Why is compassion such an important element in extending mercy?
4. Think through Matthew 9:10-13; 23:23 together. What is the *opposite* of mercy in this passage? What does Jesus see in sinners and what do the Pharisees see when Jesus eats with sinners? What are the implications for our lives in Christ today?
5. How big is your pile of “IOUs” before God in comparison to the pile you hold from other people? Discuss the implications of that in light of Matt. 18:21-35.
6. Won't being merciful to others who repeat the same sins over and over simply indulge them, giving them no reason to repent?
7. Which of the four points of application is the most challenging for you and why? How might the group help you in this regard through prayer?

