



Beatitudes – Blessed are The Merciful

Date: Sunday 24th May

Speaker: Aaron Smith

Key Verses: Matthew 5:7

Talk Summary:

- Mercy - *'compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm'*.
- It's the loving response prompted by the misery and helplessness of the one on whom the love is to be shown.
- One biblical commentator describes God's mercy as - ***"God's mercy is His tender-hearted, loving compassion for His people. It is His tenderness of heart toward the needy."***

1. Show mercy

a) **God has shown you mercy**

- The number one reason why we show mercy is because God has and continues to show us mercy. Ephesians 2:4-5
- Matthew 18, the parable of the unmerciful servant. In verse 33 the master says ***'shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'***
- Because God has shown us mercy we should show it to others.

b) **God commands us to be merciful**

- If we are following Jesus, then mercy is something each of us needs to show.
- Micah 6:8 and Hosea 6:6 show how high mercy is on God's list of priorities

c) **Showing mercy brings happiness**

- 'Blessed' can be translated happy. So Jesus is saying Happy are the merciful.
- Mercy frees you from the being bound by hate, revenge, anger and resentment.
- Proverbs in 11:17 says: *'The merciful and generous man benefits his soul...'* Showing mercy is actually good for us.

Three things for us to practice in the area of mercy...

1. Practice patience – like God be slow to anger
2. Practice compassion – forgive those who don't deserve it
3. Practice bridge building – befriend the marginalised and unpopular

RT Kendall, a Christian author writes: *'Showing mercy is letting people off the hook, it's doing what you can do to see they never get caught for what they did to you. You don't even tell people what they did to you. It's not reminding people of their faults, failures or past. It's giving them a break, refusing to throw the book at them, not pointing the finger – even those that annoy you! Instead of a guilt trip, you give freedom – this is being merciful because it is the way God is'*

2. Receive mercy

The second part of this beatitude talks about us receiving mercy. ***'...for they will receive mercy'***

- God's mercy is seen fully in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.
 - God's mercy is available to everyone, through Jesus.
 - Have you ever received the mercy that God offers to each of us through Jesus?
 - So how do we accept this mercy? Just ask him, we call it prayer.
 - Choose to accept what Jesus has done for us on the cross. We choose to turn from our old ways of life and follow him.
 - You need this mercy, we all need this mercy, it's not a game-changer; it's a life-changer.
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Worship

- Start your time together sharing how you have been aware of God's mercy (compassion and forgiveness) this week, and thanking him.
- More ideas at bvc.so/sgworship or bvc.so/sgprayer

Word

- Do you find it easy to be merciful (compassionate and forgiving)? Why/why not?
- In what ways does knowing God's mercy bring joy to you? How does showing others this same mercy increase our joy?
- We are all asked to show and receive mercy. Who Do you need God's help in showing mercy to? What areas of your life do you need God's mercy? (Move into a time of prayer)

Witness

- Who did you invite to the quiz? How did it go?
- Who are you aware of in your community is marginalised or unpopular? How can you show them God's mercy at this time?