

The Merciful

Matthew 5:7

- I. The Divine Pattern of Mercy
 - A. Perfected in God's Nature
 - B. Displayed to God's Creatures
 1. To all (Ps. 145:9)
 2. To unbelievers (Lk. 6:35-36)
 3. To His own (Lk. 1:50)
 - A ground of our election (Rom. 9:15-16)
 - A reason for our salvation (Eph. 2:4-5; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:3)

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 - 1. To all (Ps. 145:9)
 - 2. To unbelievers (Lk. 6:35-36)
 - 3. To His own (Lk. 1:50)
 - C. Illustrated in God's Son
 - 1. Toward physical hunger (Mt. 15:32)
 - 2. Toward suffering (Mt. 20:30-31, 34)
 - 3. Toward poverty (Jn. 13:29)
 - 4. Toward sin & its consequences (Mk. 5:19)

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II. The Believer's Practice of Mercy (7a)

A. The Source of Mercy

B. The Definition of Mercy

- BDAG Lexicon: "Kindness or concern expressed for someone in need."
- John Frame: "A sympathetic view of another's distress, motivating helpful action."
 1. It begins with *being* merciful—having a merciful heart.
 2. Then, it responds emotionally with sympathy toward those in misery.
 3. And true mercy always acts whenever possible.

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II. The Believer's Practice of Mercy (7a)

A. The Source of Mercy

B. The Definition of Mercy

C. The Expressions of Mercy

1. To the misery of sin & guilt – forgiveness & restoration (Gen. 50:15-21; Mt. 9:13; 18:32-35).
2. To the misery of need & poverty – practical help (Pr. 14:21, 31; Dan. 4:27; Is. 58:6-7, 10; 1 Jn. 3:17).
3. To the misery of pain & suffering – compassion (Lk. 10:30-37).

III. Jesus' Promise of Mercy (7b)

Implications...

1. Use this beatitude to examine yourself to see if you're truly in the faith (Mt. 25:41-46).
2. If you're a believer, excel still more in showing mercy (Col. 3:12).
3. Find comfort in the truth that Jesus always responds to those who have believed in Him with mercy (Heb. 2:17; 4:16).
4. If you're willing to repent and believe in Jesus, God has promised to respond to you with mercy (1 Tim. 1:15-16).