

MATTHEW 5 - THE BEATITUDES

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL,
FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY.

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

MATTHEW 5.7

eleemon - compassionate

eleeo - to receive pity or experience compassion

to be an object of gracious favor and saving mercy

to obtain pardon and forgiveness

khesed - tenderness, kindness, graciousness, compassion, lovingkindness

*I well remember [my afflictions and wanderings],
and my soul is downcast within me.
Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:
Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed,
for His compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is Your faithfulness.*

LAMENTATIONS 3.20-23

*The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.*

*The LORD is good to all;
He has compassion on all He has made.*

PSALM 145.8-9

*Who is a God like you,
who pardons sin and forgives the transgression
of the remnant of his inheritance?*

*You do not stay angry forever
but delight to show mercy.*

MICAH 7.18

*I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,
the deeds for which He is to be praised,
according to all the LORD has done for us—
yes, the many good things He has done for Israel,
according to His compassion and many kindnesses.
He said, “Surely they are My people,
children who will be true to me”;
and so He became their Savior.
In all their distress He too was distressed,
and the angel of His presence saved them.
In His love and mercy He redeemed them;
He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.*

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins . . . disobedient. . . . deserving of wrath.

But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

EPHESIANS 2.1-5

*So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God.
There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace
to help us when we need it most.*

HEBREWS 4.16 NLT

Blessed are the merciful . . .

- ▶ This is the only beatitude in which the blessing is the same as the condition.
- ▶ Twice in Mathew's gospel, Jesus quotes Hosea 6.6: "I want mercy, not sacrifice" (9.18; 12.7).
- ▶ In his sermon, Jesus does not advise or encourage people to be merciful; in the Kingdom, being merciful is a law.
- ▶ Unlike other beatitudes, one's fulfillment of this beatitude sets the terms for God's continuing grace in my life. In other words, I determine how *He* will treat me.

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

- ▶ This beatitude is unique in that it is based on the law of reciprocity: we reap what we sow.
- ▶ Set free from the judgment of my offenses and failures, I am free to live in the abundance of God's grace and to show others the gracious and forgiving heart of God.

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. . . . Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- ▶ In his Kingdom teaching, Jesus will declare that to be unmerciful, ungracious, or unforgiving is to renounce the basis of God's heart toward me, the basis of His relationship with me, and my identity as His child.

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

MATTHEW 6.14-15

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

ROMANS 13.8