

THE BLESSEDNESS OF BEING MERCIFUL
(Matthew 5:7)

- I. The MEANING of Mercy
 - A. Frequently misinterpreted for PERSONAL BENEFIT
 - 1. Shown only TO those who HAVE SHOWN it to you
 - 2. Shown only SO others WILL SHOW it to you
 - 3. Shown only as evidence of WEAKNESS
 - B. Perfectly DISPLAYED in Jesus Christ
 - 1. Giving AID to the afflicted and RESCUING the helpless
 - 2. Providing FORGIVENESS for the GUILTY
- II. RECOGNIZING Mercy
 - A. Mercy is distinct from FORGIVENESS
 - 1. Forgiveness is ALWAYS an act of mercy
 - 2. Not every MERCIFUL act involves forgiveness
 - B. Mercy is distinct from LOVE
 - 1. Mercy is ALWAYS an act of love
 - 2. Not every LOVING act involves mercy
 - C. Mercy is distinct from GRACE
 - 1. Mercy SPARES us from the suffering we DESERVE

2. Grace GIVES us a benefit we CANNOT DESERVE

D. Mercy is distinct from JUSTICE

1. Mercy gives LESS punishment and MORE help than deserved

2. Justice gives EXACTLY what is DESERVED

3. In EVERY act of mercy SOMEONE pays the price

4. God's justice offers mercy because JESUS paid the price

III. The SOURCE of Mercy

A. Mercy comes as a GIFT from GOD

B. Mercy is REVEALED only as a result of the FALL

IV. The PRACTICE of Mercy

A. Perform PHYSICAL acts of COMPASSION

B. Demonstrate proper ATTITUDES toward others

1. Includes PITY for those in NEED

2. Includes willingness to CONFRONT the WRONG

3. Included the MINISTRY of PRAYER

4. Includes the PROCLAMATION of the GOSPEL

V. The RESULT of Mercy

A. Not a condition to receive mercy from OTHERS

B. Not a CONDITION to obtain SALVATION

C. A promise that God will treat us with GREATER mercy when we treat others MERCIFULLY