

THE BEATITUDES

“Blessed are the merciful”

Matt. 5:1-10

“Blessed are the Merciful”

“Mercy” - what is it?

- **Magnanimity – Kindness - Compassion**
- **To the undeserving**

“In his great love..God..in mercy..made us alive in Christ..even when we were dead..”

Eph. 2: 4-5

“Blessed are the Merciful”

Mercy – Old Testament background

- **God delights in mercy**
- **Mercy is His love and care for His people, despite disobedience and disloyalty**
- **“Have mercy on me.. cleanse me from my sin”**

“Act justly–love mercy–walk humbly with God”

Micah 6:8

“Blessed are the Merciful”

Mercy – 1st century background

The Graeco-Roman view

- Mercy = “a disease of the soul” – a weakness

Judaism

- Selective approach – merciless towards sinner and Gentiles.

Mercy in short supply. Then....and Now

“Blessed are the Merciful”

The Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes

- **A call to ACTION, (not just an ethical framework)**
- **Intended for:**
 - **Recipients of God’s forgiveness and mercy, i.e. Citizens of God’s Kingdom**
 - **Who want to demonstrate in life the fruits of the Kingdom**

“Blessed are the Merciful”

What does Mercy look like?

- **The example of Jesus – moved to help**
- **Not simply Compassion (emotion/pity)**
- **Mercy=Compassion expressed in practical help**
- **Called to be givers and doers of Mercy**

How far?

- **Good Samaritan**
- **None beyond scope of Mercy**

“Blessed are the merciful”

- **“This is the Lord’s most powerful message”**
- **Jesus Christ=“the human face of God’s mercy”**

☐ Christians to reflect Him by life and deeds

2016 – a Year of Mercy

Our role and responsibility

- **RECEIVE God’s Mercy**
- **GIVE God’s Mercy**

“Blessed are the Merciful”

.....”For they shall obtain Mercy”

- Not just an “incentive”**
- But reinforces Biblical principle-**
 - We reap what we sow**
- ❖ “The practice of Mercy brings us closer to God –failure in Mercy distances us”**
- ❖ “Show mercy and do it cheerfully” Rom 12: 8**