

“Wonderful News for the Merciful”

A BETTER LIFE Sermon Series | Week Five | Newbreak Church

October 2nd, 2021

This week’s study is about how Jesus highlights the direct connection between receiving mercy and giving mercy.

Start Here

- What is the best advice you have ever received from someone?
- Did you ever play mercy as a kid? Did you ever show mercy in that game?

Going Deeper Into the Message

Point 1 – God celebrates those whose mercy results in acts of compassion.

[Matthew 5:7 \(Wright’s Translation\) Wonderful news for the merciful! You’ll receive mercy yourselves.](#)

[See also Luke 10:25-35](#)

When you think of the term “mercy” what picture comes to your mind? Do you think of someone kneeling, pleading their case at the foot of another, shouting “please have mercy on me?” Or do you see someone looking at the plight of another and being moved by compassion to help them? Both of these pictures present a more full understanding of the term. While mercy is “not getting the punishment you do deserve,” it doesn’t communicate the full brilliance of the term. Showing mercy is also about being moved with deep compassion for that person and choosing to act on their behalf.

In Matthew 5:7, Jesus tells us that those who are merciful to others will receive mercy themselves. In God’s Kingdom, God is our model for mercy and He invites us to show mercy to others. God was moved with compassion for His people in the Old Testament and constantly acted on their behalf (Exodus 34:6-7, Psalm 78:38; 86:15, 2 Chronicles

30:9, Joel 2:12-13). In the New Testament, we see that Jesus was also moved with compassion for the suffering (Matthew 9:36; 14:14, Mark 1:41, Mark 6:34, Luke 19:1-10). His merciful heart led him to heal many sicknesses, forgive sin, and raise the dead. Just as God is merciful to us, He is moving in our hearts to be merciful to others.

As you look at the parable of the Good Samaritan referenced in Luke 10:25-35, Jesus illuminates what mercy looks like. He sets the stage for the parable by describing in painful details the plight of a man who had a very bad day. This man was robbed, beaten, and left for dead (Luke 10:30). Several people who knew about God's mercy passed the man but didn't lift a finger to help him (Luke 10:31-32). It wasn't until the Samaritan stumbled across the damaged man that we saw what mercy looks like. He bandaged his wounds, took him to a place to stay, and ensured that the man would be cared for (Luke 10:33-35). Jesus teaches us that it's one thing to read about God's great mercy and it's another entirely to practice it in our own lives.

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- When was the last time that you showed mercy to a person in need? How did that make you feel?
- If you were in Jesus' parable, and you saw a man who had been left for dead, what would you have done? Why?
- Can you think of an Old Testament example of God showing compassion and mercy for His people? Why do you think some fail to recognize the mercy of God in the Old Testament?

Point 2 – Extend God's mercy to everyone who needs it.

Luke 10:36-37 NLT "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

God faithfully gives us abundantly more than we ask of Him. This includes giving us the tools and skills we need to be obedient to His commands. In Zechariah 7:9, He tells us to "Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another." This was not

a suggestion, an “If you have time and you feel like it” statement. This is God telling His children to do something. Jesus gives us the “why” we should do it. He tells us that we should show mercy to others because, in doing that, we will be shown mercy ourselves. We could all benefit from more mercy in our lives.

Jesus affirms the meaning of mercy and reveals the costly nature of mercy revealed in the Old Testament. He reminds us in this parable that He wants a change of our hearts and minds when we think about what true mercy, God’s mercy, means. He reminds us that God showed us mercy when we hated Him, before we were Christ followers and He modeled the cost of mercy by His death on the cross.

When we show mercy to others, it’s not to be just to our friends and families, people we like. We are to show mercy to all of His creation, strangers, enemies, people who have not been merciful to us. That’s God’s mercy. In showing mercy to others, our hearts will be conformed to His nature and draw others to know Him.

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- When was the last time God showed you mercy? How did you respond? Did you remember to be grateful? Did you have a greater desire to show mercy to others? Why, or why not?
- Why do you think Scripture tells you to *SHOW* others mercy, and not to just feel mercy toward others? How can you do this more this week?
- Who are the hardest people to show mercy to in your life? What would be the cost of showing them mercy?

—ACTIVITY—

Write down on your own, or discuss in your Life Group the ways you have been shown mercy over the past month. Be specific. Thank God for those people He placed in your life for those moments. Ask God to show you a specific way you can show mercy to someone you have noticed lately needs it. God has put that person on your heart for a reason. He is giving you an opportunity to walk in obedience to Him and to receive mercy from Him.

BONUS HEART CHANGE if that person is not someone you would normally have in your life, not part of your regular circle.

Memorize Matthew 5:7 *“Wonderful news for the merciful! You’ll receive mercy yourselves.”*

—FINAL CHALLENGE QUESTIONS—

How are you going to think differently in light of what you have read, heard, and discussed this week?

What is one thing you are going to change in your life in light of the sermon?

BONUS: For those of you with kids or around kids: What is one truth from this message that you can share with your kids?