

LIVING A *Blessed* LIFE

LIVING A BLESSED LIFE Part 4 – Be Led by Mercy Matthew 5:7

Pastor Mark Hartman, Lead Pastor
October 21-22, 2017 @ SL & MC

1. INTRODUCTION

*Those who are **merciful** will be the ones who God blesses more. (Jesus)*

The word mercy means to receive better and more than a person deserves. Mercy is the willingness to get inside the other person's skin to see things from his perspective, to **feel** with another's feelings.

*Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the **merciful**, for they will be shown mercy.*

2. MERCY IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF **GOD**.

A. All of us have been the recipients of God's mercy.

1. *Ephesians 2:4-5 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.*
2. *Titus 3:5 God saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His **mercy**.*

B. "Grace is getting something you don't deserve. Mercy is **not** getting something you do deserve." (Sparky Anderson)

C. Because God has been merciful to us, we can **now** be merciful to others.

3. MERCY IS TO BE A CHARACTERISTIC OF **GOD'S** KIDS.

A. Mercy is **not** giving someone what he deserves.

1. Why would you make the decision to not get even?
 - a. You have received mercy from **God**.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- b. You remember that this person is in **God's** hands.

Romans 12:19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord.

- c. You remember that this person does not control your future, **God** does.

Jeremiah 29:11 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

B. What does mercy look like in real life?

1. If I am merciful, I'll forgive those who have **fallen**.

a. We are all **broken** people. We all make mistakes and sometimes terrible ones. We all need mercy from each other.

b. *1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love **covers** over a multitude of sins.*

2. If I am merciful, I'll do good to those who do **wrong** to me.

Luke 6:33, 35-36 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you! Even sinners do that! But love your enemies, do good to them, then your reward will be great. Be merciful, just as your Father is!

3. If I am merciful, I will be patient with those who are **different**.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 ...Encourage the timid, help the weak, and be patient with everyone.

4. If I am merciful, I will put others **before** myself.

*Philippians 2:4-5 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of **others**.⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.*

5. If I am merciful, it is because I have **chosen** to be under the control of God's Spirit.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

4. WHAT I HAVE CHOSEN TO GIVE, I NOW GET BACK **MORE. (Matthew 5:7)**

- A. Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall **obtain** mercy.**

- B. *Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*
- C. Where will the mercy come from that will return to us?
1. Sometimes from **others**.
 2. Mercy will always come from God when we are merciful.

Psalm 18:25-26 To the faithful God shows Himself faithful, to the blameless God shows Himself blameless, ²⁶ to the pure God shows Himself pure,

The Action Steps I Will Take This Week Are...

- Right after this service I will go to the Next Step Center and talk with a minister about how I can know the mercy of God for salvation in my life.
- This week I will intentionally respond to others with mercy because God has been merciful to me.
- This week I will be forgiving to someone who doesn't deserve it because God has forgiven me.
- I want to live a God blessed life.

CDs and DVDs of today's sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water's Edge Resource Center.

Notes:
