

The Blessing of Mercy that Mends the Broken

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them... He said:
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Matthew 5:1 & 7



Key Question: What "secrets of the kingdom of God" does Jesus want us to have and to understand?

During this series we will be seeking to understand these secrets by looking at the following...

- 1) The writer, the situation, and their encounter with Jesus. (OBSERVE)
- 2) How these personal experiences created a hunger and thirst to know God and His purpose for them. (REFLECT)
- 3) What is necessary to "see & hear" God's hopes for us in today's world. (RESPOND)

*"Mercy and forgiveness must be free and unmerited to the wrongdoer. If the wrongdoer has to do something to merit it, then it isn't mercy, but forgiveness **always** comes at a cost to the one granting the forgiveness."*

Timothy J. Keller, *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith*

READ & OBSERVE: Matthew 5:1-2,7; 6:15, 9:10-13; 18:35

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them... He said : "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

"Blessed" meaning = (gk: makarios) "are happy with now", "joy that is serene, untouchable, self-contained in the present"

"Mercy" meaning...

Greek (NT) "eleos": defined attribute of God's character. Ability to "wipe out, erase, wash away or wash over", or "to cancel a debt".

Hebrew (OT) "chesedh": Almost untranslatable. Means much more than sympathy, or to feel sorry for someone. It means to walk in someone else's shoes, to get into their skin, to see through their eyes.

How does mercy define WHO we are as followers of Jesus?

Matthew 9:10–13: *And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.'** For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."*

WHAT DOES JESUS WANT US TO LEARN ABOUT HIS KINGDOM SECRET HERE?



REFLECT & RESPOND:

How Do Mercy & Forgiveness Go Hand In Hand?

Matthew 6:15: *"If you refuse to forgive others, your Father in heaven will not forgive your sins."* (NLT)

Questions that shape your ability to forgive and show mercy

1. Do you understand _____ this person may have hurt you?

2. Are you willing to let God help you to _____?

Here is what you can do right now to begin the process of forgiving.

a. Reveal your Hurt and...

b. Release the offense by...

Romans 12:19-21: *Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

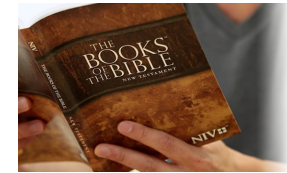
c. Ask God to Replace your hurt with...

Colossians 3:13-15: *Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.*

WEEKLY STUDY CHALLENGE

A. Read WEEK 5 (pgs. 239-290) of "The Books of the Bible."

If you prefer, you can download the CBE app, add the CBE readings to the YouVersion Bible app, or listen to it via audio. For all of these resources, go to: <http://cbe.covchurch.org/resources/>



B. As you do your readings, consider these 5 questions...
(which will be discussed in various small groups each week)

- 1. What's something you noticed for the first time?**
- 2. What questions did you have?**
- 3. Was there anything that bothered you?**
- 4. What did you learn about loving God?**
- 5. What did you learn about loving others?**

C. Understanding the Book of Matthew

The book known as Matthew is an account of the life and teachings of Jesus. He wrote to tell his fellow Jews how Jesus, the promised king, was creating a new community by bringing the ancient Jewish story to its climax.

The core of this book is divided into five sections that address key aspects of the kingdom of heaven:

- 1.** This kingdom is based on a way of righteous living in which the outward action expresses inward character (pp. 242-251)
- 2.** Jesus chose twelve disciples as a symbol of the renewed Israel and sent them out on a mission to announce the coming his kingdom. (pp. 251-256)
- 3.** This section explores the mystery of the kingdom (pp. 256-262)
- 4.** It shows how the kingdom of heaven creates a new family, the community of Jesus followers (pp. 262-270)
- 5.** Finally we see that the destiny of the kingdom is for its citizens to be scattered throughout the world by their enemies, giving them the opportunity to tell people everywhere about Jesus (pp. 270-283)