

*Meet My Savior: Jesus (Slide 1)*

*The Beatitudes:  
Blessed are the Merciful*

**Matthew 5:7 (Slide 2)**  
***Blessed are the merciful,  
For they shall obtain mercy.***

To truly understand the depths of Mercy, we need to first define mercy, determine the source of all mercy and what other complimentary characteristics are evident with one who has an attitude of mercy.

It would make logical sense that being merciful is a necessary character trait or attitude of those who will inherit the kingdom of heaven and who would receive mercy.

What does it mean to be *Merciful*?

(Slide 3) The original Greek word for *mercy* is “*Eleos*.” This word means *kindness, goodwill, a desire to help especially to those who are undeserving.*

**Romans 5:8 (Slide 4)**  
***But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

*To me this verse is the foundation of mercy. Christ died for us because of the Love of God and not because we deserved His sacrifice. ‘Mercy is revealed in forgiveness.’*

Our relationship thrives with God because of His great mercy. As we will see when man rebels, God shows Mercy because He does not give us what we deserve.

(Slide 5) Merciful ("*Eleemon*") means to *actively show compassion*. To be Merciful ("*Eleeo*") is to *act on* all the attributes that make-up Mercy.

Mercy is a consistent attribute of God. It is displayed in his tender patience.

**Psalm 18:25-27** (Slide 6)

***25 With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful;  
With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless;  
26 With the pure You will show Yourself pure;  
And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.  
27 For You will save the humble people,  
But will bring down haughty looks.***

Despite the rebellion of the Israelites, when Moses was in the mountain receiving the 10 commandments on stone, God showed tremendous restraint, patience and mercy.

He not only created the tablets again but in Exodus 34, He allowed them to have a fresh start through a renewed covenant.

**Exodus 34:6b-7** (Slide 7)

***6b "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, (Slide 8) forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."***

Certainly for those who repented He was Merciful. Yet, because He is also just, those that continue in rebellion, He will turn His face from and seek to correct them with captivity.

Countless times in the Old Testament, God has shown mercy:

He rescued Lot from certain death in the city of **Sodom**. **Genesis 19**.

In **2 Chronicles 30**, Hezekiah tried to unite the people and get them to turn their heart back to God. He kept the passover observance and spoke to them about the bountiful mercy of God:

**2 Chronicles 30:6b-9** (Slide 9)

***6b "Children of Israel, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; then He will return to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. 7 And do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, (Slide 10) so that He gave them up to desolation, as you see. 8 Now do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD; and enter His sanctuary, which He has sanctified forever, and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you. (Slide 11) 9 For if you return to the LORD, your brethren and your children will be treated with compassion by those who lead them captive, so that they may come back to this land; for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn His face from you if you return to Him."***

*Over and over again, God was merciful to the people of old.....if they turned back to Him!!*

Jesus, who is God, who was and is one with God, exhibited the merciful character of the Godhead:

A man feeling the extreme agony of desperation/ hopeless came to Jesus for mercy in:

**Matthew 17:14-18** (Slide 12)

**14 And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, 15 "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. 16 So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."**

**(Slide 13) 17 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." 18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.**

The blind seeking mercy for sight found it in the Mercy of Jesus:

**Matthew 20:29-34** (Slide 14)

**29 Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. 30 And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"**

**(Slide 15) 31 Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"**

**32 So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?"**

**(Slide 16) 33 They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened." 34 So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.**

Yes, Jesus performed miracles to further the Gospel message and that in and of itself is an extreme act of mercy. Compassion is an attribute of Jesus' message.

He was sent to be merciful:

Before the Child Jesus was born, Zacharias prophesied regarding God's mercy through Him, **Luke 1:67-79**.

**Ephesians 2:4-7** (Slide 17)

***4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and (Slide 18) made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus***

The very means of salvation for mankind is through grace and the mercy of our God through Jesus Christ:

**Titus 3:4-7** (Slide 19)

***4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of (Slide 20) the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.***

The common thread of the One who has shown us Mercy through His Son, is Love!

**John 3:16** (Slide 21)

***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. The ultimate act of Mercy!!***

As Christians we are led to be like Jesus, who is one with The Father. We are to be like Him in character, to show mercy, to show love. It is evident through Jesus' sermon on the Mount that if we are merciful to others that we will be shown mercy.

**Colossians 3:12-15** (Slide 22)

***12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. (Slide 23) 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.***

*We are to show compassion and to help those who stand in need:*

**Proverbs 14:31** (Slide 24)

***He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker,***

***But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.***

*We are to be like the Good Samaritan who showed mercy when no one else would!!*

How does one learn to show Mercy? We are taught. We learn mercy by example.

Do you have children or grandchildren? Then teach them to love others. Love naturally generates compassion, empathy, a sense of humanity that leads to mercy.

**Matthew 5:43-48** (Slide 25)

***43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, (Slide 26) 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? (Slide 27) Do not even the tax collectors do the***

**same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.** God has given everyone a chance through His abundant mercy!!

*I believe the souls of those who we don't even know or those who we have difficulty with should mean as much to us as those who are close. To be Merciful is by sharing the Gospel with them.*

*From our reading:*

***"I desire mercy and not sacrifice!"***

*What we can take away from this lesson is that mercy is also love, compassion and forgiveness.*

#### **Matthew 6:14**

***For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. That's how we obtain mercy.***

*Invitation*

*If you have heard the Gospel call and you recognize God's great Love and Mercy through the sacrifice of Jesus' His only begotten Son on the cross, why not respond to the call today and experience His Mercy? Be baptized today and become a child of God!*

*If you are in Christ but have a need that we can assist you with through prayer, know that God is a Loving Merciful God waiting to hear your petition.....*

*Please let us know how we can assist you today.....*

*Reading*

#### **Matthew 9:9-13**

**9 As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.**

**10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"**

**12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."**

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