



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of October 31, 2021

Blessed are the Merciful

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Matthew 5:7](#).

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

- What does Jesus mean by "mercy"?
- Describe the relationship between **being merciful** and **receiving mercy** in this verse.
- What things do we **risk** when we show mercy to others?
- When is it **difficult** to receive mercy?
- Many merciful people are treated indifferently-- or even cruelly-- in return. Jesus Christ is the chief example of this. **How do you reconcile the way the merciful can be treated with Jesus' promise** in Matthew 5:7?
- To press deeper into seeing God's mercy, read [Matthew 18:21-22](#). Is enough ever enough? Are there **limits in showing mercy**?
- Read [Matthew 18:23-35](#). Jesus uses this parable late in the Gospel of Matthew to expound on His teaching in Matthew 5:7. What is **Jesus teaching about the nature of mercy**?
- If we **refuse to be merciful to others**, what effect does that have on ourselves?
- The Gospel means you are **free** to keep short accounts & **surrender** the goal of getting even. That you **cannot out-mercy the generous King**: You are forgiven much. And that mercy is **costly & requires death**. How does your **heart respond** to these reflections on today's Scripture?

- When we don't show mercy, our **hearts will demand payment**. We become **disconnected from God, ourselves & others**. Have you ever experienced this?
- Think of **someone you struggle to be merciful to** in your life. You might identify that person as...
 - Someone who irritates you
 - Someone who does not deserve mercy
 - Someone for whom you have distaste
 - Someone you avoid
 - Someone you attack
 - Someone you gossip about

When you have the inability to show mercy, **what is going on in your heart?**

- What **conditions** do you instinctively want to **place on this person before you are merciful** toward them? In other words, what does your heart want to **require from this** person before you release them? What specifically would you **desire this person to say or do**?
- **Pray together** in light of this week's beatitude. **Ask Jesus for eyes to see how He is merciful to you**, and for **power to show His mercy** to others.

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