



## THEY'RE MERCIFUL

February 7, 2021

Matthew 5:7

Pastor Daniel Hahn

### MESSAGE NOTES

Christ invited people into His spiritual kingdom where God reigns and we flourish.

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

Three practical ways mercy becomes a part of our new Kingdom life:

1. Mercy for the miserable — that's the easiest of the three.

Mercy seeks the alleviation of suffering through our giving and our hands on involvement always with an awareness that every person is valuable to God.

2. Mercy for the mistaken — that's harder, but gets easier with practice.

*The hardest time to be gentle is when we know we are right and someone else is obviously dead wrong, ... the greatest temptation for most of us is when someone has failed us and their destiny or happiness is in our hands. We hold the power to give or refuse a blessing. When we withhold forgiveness, it not only hurts the person we don't want to forgive, it hurts us. Our creativity and joy in life are stifled. When we forgive, we release peace and restoration to the forgiven and to ourselves. — Lloyd John Ogilvie, Let God Love You*

Mercy responds with patience and understanding when confronted with the inevitable shortcomings of others knowing that we too have a track record of failures.

3. Mercy when we've been personally mistreated — that's hardest, but is so essential.

*Notice what God does when we calibrate our compassion. He turns us over to be tortured. Tortured by anger. Choked by bitterness. Consumed by revenge. Such is the punishment for one who tastes God's grace but refuses to share it. But for the one who tastes God's grace and then gives it to others, the reward is a blessed liberation. The prison door is thrown wide open, and the prisoner set free is yourself. — Max Lucado, The Applause of Heaven*

Mercy chooses a course of forgiveness, ultimately freeing everyone who hurts us, since we ourselves have been forgiven so much by the unfathomable grace of Christ our Savior.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was one thing that stood out to you personally from this past week at ENCOUNTER?
- Describe typical life situations that prompt people to become more aware of their need for mercy from God and from others?
- Share how you would define true Christ-like mercy?
- What were the three types of mercy Daniel spoke about on the weekend?
- What thoughts did you have about the story of Daniel's mom and her friend Mary?
- What lessons about mercy can be learned from Jesus' parable of the unforgiving servant (see Matthew 18:23 – 35)?
- In what ways can showing mercy take a lot of intentionality and effort? In what way is there a price tag attached to offering mercy?
- How does the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf offer us the most compelling and motivating example of true mercy?
- What are some of the dangers or consequences of not showing mercy to others?
- In general, what sort of mentality would enable us to be more merciful to people?
- Is there someone in your life right now who is requiring mercy from you? How are you responding? Is there some tangible way you could offer mercy to someone this week?