

Community Guide

Main Idea: Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Head Change: Mercy is about action.

Heart Change: Pity or sadness becomes mercy when it acts, moves.

Life Change: Mercy begins with the one right in front of me.

This week, Brian Johnson taught on the fifth of the nine Beatitudes: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Matthew 5:7 NIV). Mercy is “a loving response prompted by the misery or helplessness of another; generous in doing deeds of deliverance to those in need.” We are quick to call out and even cancel those who offend us. We have become great judges of others’ sin (but great lawyers of our own). This is not how God desires for us to live. He has shown us never-ending mercy by forgiving all of our sins, and He has called us to extend that same mercy to others. We are called to show mercy to those who make mistakes, to those who let us down, to those far from God, and to ourselves. Let’s stand before God having loved too much rather than having judged too harshly. Never forget: The forgiven forgive!

Reflection Questions:

1. What stood out to you in this teaching? Why do you think that resonated with you?
2. When someone does something to offend you, how do you usually respond? What does it look like to respond with mercy?
3. Describe the mercy God has shown you. What has He forgiven you for?
4. Do you have a hard time showing mercy to yourself? Explain your answer.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for showing us such incredible mercy and forgiving us when we were at our worst. Help us fully accept Your mercy and grace today. Root out any bitterness we might have in our hearts so that we can offer mercy to others as freely as You offer it to us. Help us respond to every person with love. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.