

# The Bliss of the Kind Heart

**Matthew 5:7**

# Matthew 5:6

- **“Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall receive  
mercy.”**

# Introduction

- **what was the difference between grace & mercy?**
- **why this is a reciprocal beatitude?**
- **Remember Jesus' teaching in Matthew?**
- **Challenge: at the end of this lesson I need to ask myself the difficult question: is there someone I need to extend mercy and understanding toward that I have not been willing?**

# Introduction

- **Good working definition of “merciful” as an adjective=**
- **“treating people with kindness and forgiveness : not cruel or harsh : having or showing mercy”**
- **“giving relief from suffering”**
- **Source: Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary**

# God Is Merciful

- **Luke 1:(54)58 Elizabeth's neighbors had heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy on her and she gave birth to John.**
- **Luke 1:72 (78) Zachariah's blessing to God for His mercy;**
- **According to God's mercy we have been saved (Titus 3:5).**
- **1 Peter 1:3—God's great mercy has caused us to be born again unto a living hope.**

# God Is Merciful

- **God's mercy is for all the disobedient (Romans 11:28-32)**
- **God can show mercy on whomever he desires (Romans 9:15-18)**
- **“mercy” so many times in Romans.**
- **God is “rich” in mercy (Ephesians 2:4).**
- **In the Magnificat=Luke 1:50 God extends His mercy**

# Mercy in the Old Testament

- **“Mercy seat” in Exodus 25 associated with the Ark of the Covenant**
- **“Mercy seat” referred to twice in the New Testament: Hebrews 9:5 and Romans 3:25**
- **Psalms focuses on the mercy of God!**

# Jesus Is Merciful

- **Jesus is a merciful and faithful high priest (Hebrews 2:17)**
- **Jesus desires “mercy/compassion” and not sacrifice (Matthew 9:13; 12:7)**
- **Matthew 23:23—Pharisees had neglected the “weightier matters of the law; i.e., according to Jesus they are justice, mercy and faithfulness.”**
- **Jesus’ fundamental example of mercy: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:37).**



# Mercy in the New Testament

- **Mercy is a gift of grace to be extended with cheerfulness (Romans 12:8).**
- **We are vessels of mercy (Romans 9:23)**
- **Romans 15:9—Gentiles will glorify God for his mercy**
- **Grace, mercy and peace=tripartite epistolary greeting by Paul (Galatians 6:16; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2; (2 John 1:3; Jude 1:2)**

# Mercy in the New Testament

- Paul desires that the Lord grant mercy to Onisephorus because he had often taken Paul in and offered a place of refreshment (2 Timothy 1:16-18).
- Wisdom from above is full of mercy (James 3:17).
- Jude 21—keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

# Conclusion

- **Mercy comes from the very loving nature of God.**
- **We are saved by God's mercy which is extended to all.**
- **Jesus desires mercy and gave us an unforgettable story about it.**

# Conclusion

- **Old Testament “mercy seat” important concept for New Testament understanding of Jesus’ blood as the ultimate gift of mercy for us**

# Conclusion

- **Other dimensions of mercy in the New Testament**
- **What is the difference between grace and mercy?**