

**“Blessed are the Merciful”
Paradox Week 6
Wayne Burnham**

Recap

- Jesus is shaping our Kingdom perspective - just as he did with the listeners of the Sermon on the Mount
- The first 4 “blessed are” statements tend to focus on our relationship with God, while the next 4 seem to focus on our relationship with others.

Jesus’ ministry had a theme of restoring relationships with God and others

Matthew 5:7 (NIV) – “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

Those who show mercy will receive mercy.

1.) We have to remind ourselves how merciful God is to us

Luke 7:47 (NIV) – Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.

Sin grieves God. We must not down-play the seriousness of it in the life of a believer. But we must come to terms with the fact that God’s Grace is GREATER THAN ALL OUR SINS. Repentance is one of the Christian’s highest privileges. A repentant Christian focus on God’s mercy and God’s grace. Any moment in our lives when we bask in God’s mercy and grace is our highest moment. Higher than when we feel smug in our decent performance and cannot think of anything we need to confess. — Jerry Bridges, The Discipline of Grace

1 Timothy 1:13-15 (NIV) – Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NLT) – But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)

- All of us came to Jesus as a sinner, lost and broken in need of His mercy
- When was the last time you looked back at the life that Jesus saved you from?
- Are you thankful for God’s mercy in your life?

2.) Those who make mistakes

Micah 6:8 (NIV) – Ephesians 4:23 (NIV)

To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in me. – C.S. Lewis

Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)

Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV) “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Unfaithfulness is wrong. Revenge is worse. But the worst part of all is that without forgiveness, bitterness is all that is left. – Max Lucado

- *Is it possible to forgive someone, and not reconcile with them?*
- *Is it possible to reconcile with someone, without forgiving them?*
- *Are forgiveness and reconciliation one in the same?*
- *Is there someone you are struggle to forgive or have mercy with?*

3.) Those far from God

Matthew 9:10-13 (NIV) – While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Jesus connected before He corrected.

James 2:2-4 (NIV) – Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Let’s stand before God having loved too much than having judged too harshly.



Sermon Resources



Overtime Podcast