

Scripture Reading

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

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:7-8 ESV

Mercy and Purity of Heart

A Study of the Beatitudes



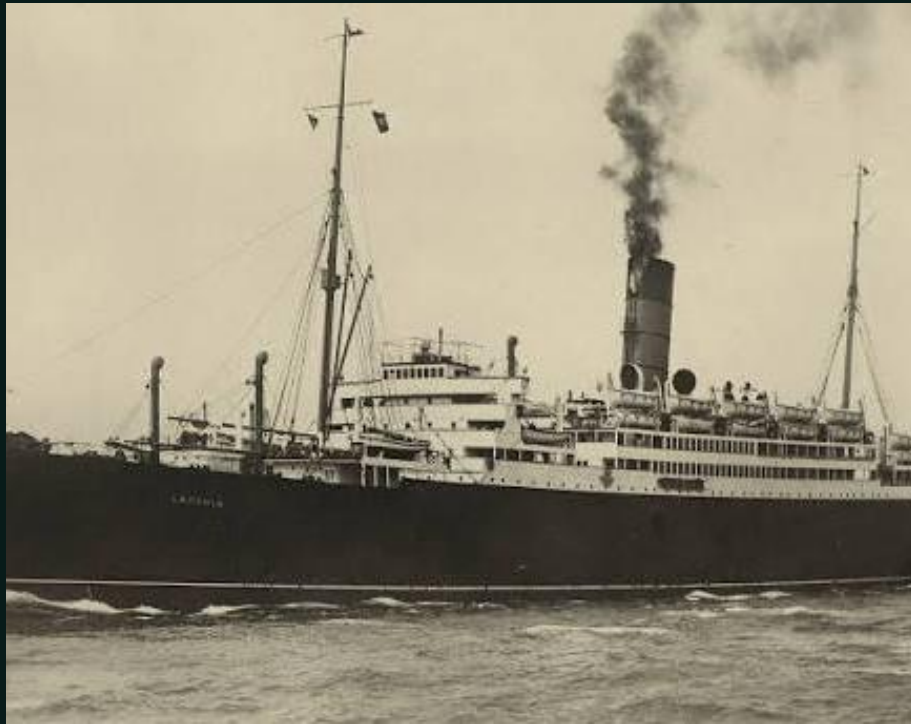
MATTHEW 5:7-8





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What Does Merciful Mean?

“Showing or exercising mercy”

- Mercy
 - a. Compassion, leniency, or restraint (as in imposing punishment) shown especially to an offender or to one subject to the power of another.
 - b. A blessing that is an act of divine favor or compassion
 - c. Compassionate treatment of those in distress



Mercy in the Bible

Compassionate actions
that care for the
physical and spiritual
needs of others

Matthew 25:31-40 ESV

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

Caring For Physical Needs



Colossians 3:13 ESV

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.



Paul's Letter to the Colossians

- Be filled with compassion
 - Offer forgiveness when wronged
 - Treat each other with gentleness and humility
-
- We have been forgiven of much worse.
 - Jesus paid the price even though we are undeserving

Matthew 18:21-22

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. Matthew 18:21-22

God's Mercy

²² The faithful love of the LORD never ends!

His mercies never cease.

²³ Great is his faithfulness;

his mercies begin afresh each morning.

²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance;
therefore, I will hope in him!"

Lamentations 3:22-24 NLT

God's Mercy is Unfailing

- The passage in Lamentations is written as a response of the author seeing the destruction of Jerusalem.
- Also after seeing the people of Israel being in captivity by the Babylonians.
- Verses 22-24 are a reminder that no matter what life throws our way, God is merciful and faithful.

We Must Be Merciful

- Like Jesus, we must be merciful to others too.
- When we see someone struggling, offer compassion.
- When we are wronged, offer forgiveness.
- When we feel defeated, remember who we serve! The battle is already won.

Blessed Are The Pure In Heart

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

Matthew 5:8 ESV

- What does it mean to be pure in heart?
 - It is about our intentions.
 - Do we have selfish ambition?
 - Are we seeking personal satisfaction?
 - Looking for gratitude or praise?

Psalms 51:10

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalms 51:10

- David offers a legitimate plea for mercy and to be made clean.
- In response to David's sin with Bathsheba.

Acts 13:22

- ²² And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'
- Despite David's failure, he still sought out the purity and mercy of God.
- Not for his own gain, but because of his love for God.

John 1:47

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”

- Jesus saw and mentioned Nathanael’s purity of heart when He called him.
- We need to be more like David and Nathanael.

What are you struggling with?

- Struggling with mercy?
 - Pray for a softening of your heart.
 - Repent and let go of the hurt that keeps you bound.
 - Show mercy and compassion
- Seeking personal gain under false pretensions or have an impure heart?
 - Repent and realign your relationship with God.