

## Matthew 5:7

### Opposition to the attitudes and actions of the Pharisees and the Romans

Everything Jesus has said so far in the Beatitudes has been in direct opposition to the attitudes, characteristics, and actions of the Pharisees, religious leaders, and the Romans to whom the Jews were under oppression to. This beatitude is no different as the general attitude of the Pharisees and the Romans which was not to show mercy as this would indicate weakness and vulnerability.

### We in spiritual poverty as beggars (poor in spirit) who are saved by His mercy

- **Titus 3:3-7** For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, <sup>5</sup> He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, **but according to His mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs <sup>[a]</sup> according to *the* hope of eternal life.
- **Ephesians 2:1-9** And you <sup>[a]</sup> were dead <sup>[b]</sup> in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the <sup>[c]</sup> course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup> Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, <sup>[d]</sup> indulging the desires of the flesh and of the <sup>[e]</sup> mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. **4 But God, being rich in mercy**, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead <sup>[f]</sup> in our transgressions, made us alive together <sup>[g]</sup> with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and <sup>[h]</sup> that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast
- **1 Peter 1:3-4** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who according to His great mercy** has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you
- **Romans 9:14-25** What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! <sup>15</sup> For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." <sup>16</sup> So then it *does* not *depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, **but on God who has mercy**. <sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed <sup>[k]</sup> throughout the whole earth." **18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires**, and He hardens whom He desires. <sup>19</sup> You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?" <sup>20</sup> On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? <sup>21</sup> Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel <sup>[l]</sup> for honorable use and another <sup>[m]</sup> for common use? <sup>22</sup> <sup>[n]</sup> What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? <sup>23</sup> And *He did so* to make known the riches of His glory upon **vessels of mercy**, which He prepared beforehand for glory, <sup>24</sup> *even* us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

### God shows mercy to us daily

- **Hebrews 4:16** Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive **mercy** and find grace to help in time of need.
- **Lamentations 3:22-23** The Lord's lovingkindnesses <sup>[i]</sup> indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. <sup>23</sup> *They* are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

## Vertical, Horizontal

- One of the greatest pieces of evidence that one has truly been shown mercy by God is that they show mercy to others
- As we understand the mercy that God has shown to spiritually poor beggars pleading for His mercy, mercy will begin to flow out of us to others.
- The heart that is truly thankful and grateful for the mercy of God, will want to shown mercy to others.
- If one does not extend or show mercy to others, the question arises: have they been shown mercy by God?
- We didn't deserve mercy and sometimes those we encounter may not either. That's why it's mercy.

## Bible verses on being merciful to others

- **Matthew 6:12-15** 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from [a]evil. [b][For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]'<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive [c]others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive [d]others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.
  - If we do not forgive those who ask for our forgiveness, we show that we have not really seen our own need of God's forgiveness. And if we have not really seen our own need of God's forgiveness, we have not truly asked the Lord to show us mercy. Simply put, if we do not forgive, we are setting a higher bar than God does. We are exalting ourselves as better than other sinners in the Lord's eyes, revealing that we have likely not understood the grace of God at all. We show that we are not relying on the Father's promises alone but are instead trying to bring something before God to earn His favor. We are depicting an attitude that says, "I deserve God's forgiveness, but others do not." In sum, if we persist in withholding our forgiveness from repentant people, we reveal that we do not know Christ. If we have been forgiven by the Lord in Christ, we will forgive others. -R.C Sproul
- **Ephesians 4:32** Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven [a]you.
- **James 2:13** For judgment *will be* merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy [m]triumphs over judgment.
  - Showing mercy is a characteristic of the one who is born again (from above). An unforgiving heart is an unforgiven heart.
- **Jude 20-25** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. <sup>22</sup> And have mercy on some, who are doubting; <sup>23</sup> save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.<sup>24</sup> Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and [a]forever. Amen.

## Parables on mercy

- **Matthew 18:21-35**
- **Luke 10:30-37**

God is displeased when we who have been shown the most mercy are the most stingy distributing mercy to others. We must remember that we as the blessed ones are poor in spirit who are beggars with a hand outstretched for God's mercy. Those who God has been merciful to, we are to extend that mercy as this is a characteristic of the regenerate person. The greatest realization and fulfillment of mercy is when we who were spiritually poor beggars and paupers are welcomed into the kingdom of Kings of Kings. If anyone asks the reason we are allowed in the Kingdom of God, the myriads and myriads of people there will give the reason with this word: Mercy! How blessed it that!

