

From Careless to Caring

Series: From Broken to Blessed

[A Study of the Beatitudes – Matthew 5:1-12]

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Matthew 5:7

Introduction

Mercy is **kindness**.

Mercy is **compassion**.

Mercy is shown in **action**.

Mercy reflects **wisdom**.

What do we learn from this fifth principle?

We need to care **more** about people and extending the mercy that God has extended to us.

Why should I be merciful?*

1. God has **shown** me mercy.

God's mercy is so abundant, and His love for us is so great, that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience, He brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4-5, GNT
Shouldn't you have mercy on others, just as I have had mercy on you? Matthew 18:33, NLT

2. God **commands** me to be merciful.

God has told you what's good and what He requires from you: To do what is right with others, to love being merciful to others, and to live humbly in fellowship with God. Micah 6:8, NCV/TEV

3. I'll need mercy in the **future**.

You must show mercy to others, or God won't show mercy to you . . . but the person who shows mercy can stand without fear at the judgment. James 2:13, NCV

4. Showing mercy brings **happiness**.

If you want to be happy, be kind to those in need; it is a sin to despise anyone! Proverbs 14:21, TEV
Your own soul is nourished when you show mercy. Prov. 11:17, LB

How do I fulfill my ministry of mercy?*

1. Be patient with people's **quirks**.

Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Ephesians 4:2, LB
The wisdom that comes from heaven is pure, peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. Wisdom is full of mercy . . .
James 3:17, NLT

2. **Help** anyone hurting around me.

Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it.
Proverbs 3:27, TEV

3. Give people a **second** chance.

Don't get bitter or angry or use harsh words that hurt each other. Don't yell at one another or curse or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ. Ephesians 4:31-32

4. Do **good** to those who hurt me.

Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because God is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:35-36, NIV

5. Be **kind** to those who offend me.

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. . . I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for others who would believe on him and receive eternal life. 1 Timothy 1:13, 16, NIV

6. Build **bridges** of love to the unpopular.

Then he added, 'Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who are righteous, but those who are sinners.' Matthew 9:13, NLT

7. Value **relationships** over rules.

Love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:10
I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices. For the Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath! Matthew 12:7b, 8, NLT

*help from Rick Warren, The Keys to a Blessed Life
Scripture passages English Standard Version unless otherwise noted