

# Blessed Are the Merciful

(Matthew 5:7)

## Pre-Session Warm Up

Today we're going to learn about *mercy*. Who knows what mercy is? (To be full of compassion for someone in distress.)

Here's an example: Have you ever done anything embarrassing in front of people? Has anyone ever made you feel dumb because they laughed at you when you made a mistake? Was that merciful? (No!) What would be the merciful thing for someone to do? (Have compassion and try to comfort you)

Here's another example: What kind of punishment do you get when you do something naughty? Have you ever done something really bad that you know you deserved punishment for but your mom or dad let you get off without punishment? We call that mercy — not getting what you deserve.

[Teacher, write definition on board: *Mercy — not getting what you deserve.*]

Mercy is a kind of attitude God wants us to have towards other people.

## Opening Prayer

Lord, You are full of compassion towards us. We want to learn how to be like You so that we can make our friends feel good. We want them to know that it's You that gives us the ability to love them, too. So, give us teachable hearts this morning. Help us to listen with our spiritual ears so that we won't miss the lesson You have for us out of the Scriptures this morning. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

## Memory Verse

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. (Matthew 5:7)*

## Lesson

Turn to Matthew 5 in your Bibles. Who can remember what we've been studying the last 4 weeks? We've been studying *The Beatitudes*. Who can remember what a *beatitude* is? A beatitude is the blessing you get from God when you have the kind of attitudes that please Him. I call them "*Be-Attitudes*" because they are attitudes that ought to be in our hearts. God gives us blessings when we allow Him to control our thoughts and feelings.

*The Beatitudes* tell us about the kinds of attitudes we should have to receive blessings from God. Jesus came to earth to teach us these things so that we could live happy and fulfilled lives. So, it's important for us to understand His teachings.

## Review

[Teacher, as you review these verses, have the children observe the text in their own Bibles. Lead them to understand the meaning of the words by asking questions and getting responses from them.]

The **first** beatitude is found in Matthew 5:3,

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*

We learned that God is really pleased with us when we know that we are "*poor in spirit*" (that is, we know that we are lost without Jesus). He promises that once we turn to Him to ask Him to forgive us of our sins, we receive the right to go to Heaven when we die. It says, "*for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*"

The **second** beatitude is found in Matthew 5:4,

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

We learned that this means that we will be truly happy if we are sincerely sorry about our sins. What is the blessing? God comforts us! God promises to forgive everyone who confesses their sins and to restore them to right standing before Him.

The **third** beatitude is in Matthew 5:5,

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

We learned that we will be truly happy if we become humble and stop trying to be the center of attention. What's the blessing? God promises us *the earth*. This is total appreciation for your life here on earth: your health, friends, family, fresh air and sunshine, etc. You see, when we begin to take our eyes off of ourselves, we start enjoying the beauty and the bounty of the earth around us. That's when we get the most out of life. And, we look forward to being with Jesus in the life to come.

The **fourth** beatitude is in Matthew 5:6,

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."*

We learned that we will be truly happy if we earnestly desire to do what is right and good. What's the promised blessing in this beatitude? God promises that we *shall be filled*, that is, we will be completely satisfied deep down in our heart and soul. When you sincerely desire to do what is right it gives you a lasting happiness because you know you are in the center of God's will.

And now today we'll be looking at the **fifth** beatitude,

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. (Matthew 5:7)*

If you truly want to be happy in life, you need to understand what God is saying here. So again, what does *merciful* mean? (To be full of compassion for someone in distress and not give them what they deserve.) The merciful are those who forgive others and show them kindness even if they are wrong. The merciful unselfishly reach out to help others in need. They don't look down on others or condemn them. The merciful don't keep track of wrong things others do.

Do you know anyone like that? Have you ever been merciful? What are some ways you can be merciful?

Being merciful may mean giving some of your allowance to a poor family, being a friend to someone that others in your neighborhood laugh at, or being patient with your baby brother when he breaks one of your toys.

To show mercy also means to not punish someone when he deserves it. Do you know anyone who deserves to be punished, but instead gets mercy? (We do!) The Lord Jesus took the punishment for your sin and mine when He died on the cross. Don't you think we should show mercy to others because He has been merciful to us?

Once you receive Him (that is, believe in what He did for you on the cross), He will help you to be merciful to others less fortunate than you and to those who hurt or disappoint you.

What is the promise to you if you are merciful to someone? God promises a special blessing to the merciful: they will receive mercy in one way or another (2 Samuel 22:26; Ecclesiastes 11:1). So, if you show mercy, don't be surprised when others are merciful to you!

Next time someone does something wrong to you and it's "*pay back*" time, remember what the Lord has done for you. It will help you to be a little more understanding and forgiving. As you allow God to control your thoughts and attitudes, He will bless you big time.

## Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for reminding us this morning just how loving and compassionate You have been towards us. We want to show mercy to others because You have shown us mercy. Help us to be more understanding and forgiving of our friends and family. And, as we treat people the way You have treated us, cause them to want to know You better. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

## Learning Centers

### Craft Corner

### Game Center

Have the children work on the *Beatitude Matching* worksheets or send them home as “take home” papers.

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

#### **Review questions:**

1. What is a beatitude? (A beatitude is the blessing you get from God when you have the kind of attitudes that please Him.)
2. What is the blessing God promises in today’s beatitude? (Mercy)
3. What is mercy? (To be full of compassion to someone in distress.)
4. Describe a merciful person? What are some ways you can be merciful? (Giving food to a poor family, being a friend to someone others laugh at, being patient with someone that bothers you, etc.)
5. How have you been merciful?
6. Has anyone ever been merciful to you? Did you ever NOT get punished when you deserved it?
7. How has the Lord been merciful to you? (He took the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross, so now we don’t have to be punished for our sins.)
8. Are you just naturally merciful or do you have to choose to be merciful? (Choose! And it takes great strength of character to make godly choices.)
9. What are some of the other attitudes God wants us to have towards other people besides mercy? (See the other beatitudes we’ve studied so far)
  - Poor in Spirit — To know that we need Jesus
  - Mourn — To grieve over our sins
  - Meek — To have personal humility
  - Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness — To earnestly desire to do what is right.

# Match the Attitude with the Meaning

(Draw a line to connect the attitude with the meaning)

Poor in Spirit

Earnestly Desire to do What is Right

Mourn

Don't Give What's Deserved

Meek

Grieve Over Our Sins

Hunger and Thirst  
for Righteousness

Personal Humility

Merciful

Know That We Need Jesus

## Match the Attitude with the Blessing

(Draw a line to connect the attitude with the promised blessing)

Poor in Spirit

Filled (or Satisfied)

Mourn

Mercy

Meek

Kingdom of Heaven

Hunger and Thirst  
for Righteousness

Comfort

Merciful

Inherit the Earth

## Circle the Correct Answers

1. Blessed are the (rich, poor, happy) in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of (Satan, God, Heaven). (Matthew 5:3)
2. (Sad, Sleepy, Happy) are those who mourn, for they shall be (filled, obtain mercy, comforted). (Matthew 5:4)
3. Blessed are the (weak, strong, meek), for they shall inherit (the earth, money, a house). (Matthew 5:5)
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for (righteousness, food, money), for they shall be (rich, happy, filled). (Matthew 5:6)
5. Blessed are the (merciful, mean, unforgiving) for they shall obtain (money, mercy, food). (Matthew 5:7)

## Fill in the Blanks

1. To know we are “poor in spirit” is to realize we \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Jesus.
2. God will comfort us if we are truly \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ for our sins.
3. Mercy is NOT getting what we \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ .

## Decode the Secret Words

Use this secret code to find the secret words below:

A	B	X	Δ	E	Φ	Γ	H	I	Θ	K	Λ	M	N	O	Π	Θ	P	Σ	T	Υ	ς	Ω	Ξ	Ψ	Z
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Decode these secret words:

B Δ E Σ Σ E Δ

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B E A T I T Y Δ E

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M E P X I Φ Y Λ

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