

September 2nd, 2018
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Heavenly Happiness
Sermon #6 Title: The Magnitude of Mercy
Sermon #6 Text: (Matthew 5:7)

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

Psalms 101:1 – “I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee,
O LORD, will I sing.”

- It is a subject in the song of the saints. The music of
mercy is a tune that serves as the background music
for all of scripture.

I. The Essence of Mercy

*Note – As we have in each of the previous messages, we do
so again, and have to begin by asking the question, what
exactly is Jesus speaking of, when He speaks of mercy. How
does heaven define this word.

A. It is Interactive toward men's Pain

1.) “compassion” – the word for merciful

a.) The Word that Jesus uses is rooted
in the word that means

“compassionate” – it is only used twice
in the New Testament.

*Note – Well that just pushes the question back one step
further, and what does it mean to have “compassion.”

It comes from two words

- “Com” which means to be together with
- “Passion” – which originally meant to suffer

*Note – In short, at the very foundation of this word is the
idea of “suffering together with” someone else's pain.

*Note – To recognize what they are feeling, as though you
were in their shoes...

- Our Lord was intensely acquainted with this word
throughout his earthly ministry . . .

2.) On five different occasions in the scriptures
the Bible says of Jesus he was “moved with
compassion.”

*Note – Now that was not the same word, but it was the same
concept as the word that Jesus uses here in Matthew.

- The essence of Mercy begins when someone recognizes,
sympathizes, and empathizes with the pain of another.

- that is it's root

- that is it's foot

- Now that's not the fullness of Mercy or even the practice of
mercy, but that is the foundation of it's essence!

B. It is Reactive toward men's Sins

*Note – Most likely this is the form of mercy that you and I are
most familiar with. We often say, and rightly so that Grace is
when you get what you do not deserve, and Mercy is when
you do not get what you do deserve, and that is fundamentally
true. But that doesn't necessarily exhaust all that Mercy is,
but this is in fact a significant part of it.

1.) The Merciful are people who do not live as
prosecutors for the judgment of other men's
sins against them.

*Note – Write this passage down, and you'll have a
wonderfully clear picture of what this kind of mercy is talking
about, as demonstrated by the Lord to Israel in the book of
Micah.

2.) Micah 7:18-19 – “Who is a God like unto
thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by
the transgression of the remnant of his
heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever,
because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn

again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”

In this passage what does the Lord do that He defines and delights in as Mercy?

- There is Pardon of Iniquity

- that word for Pardon means to “bear up, or lift, or to carry”

- it’s first uses in the English language were to “indulge” or “indulgence.”

- or more literally to “put up with.”

When we say, “pardon me, but may I ask you question.” – You are requesting someone to bear up or put up with you inconveniencing them. It is to bear up, or carry our iniquity.

- Now here is the first part of Lord’s Mercy . . .

- He is willing to bear up our iniquities for a season. – Now yes, His mercies endure forever. But not every single mercy will endure forever because while the Lord will “bear up” with the guilty, He will not at all “acquit the wicked.” (Nahum 1:3)

- Iniquity is the perversion that is in you. To Pardon that is to bear with someone’s perversion, or sin that is in them.

- Iniquity is what is in you.

There is Passing by a Transgression

- If Pardoning is “bear with” what someone is, “Passing by” is not always prosecuting what someone does.

- a Transgression is a deed – it is what someone “does.”

- the phrase passeth by, means just that – to move on from, a transgression.

*Note – The Children of Israel, and the people before Jesus at this sermon were well aware of the history of their people,

and should have been awakened to the Lord’s mercy in their scriptures, and in their history.

It is Mercy toward men’s sins that provide time and opportunity for repentance.

(Someone may hurtfully, and foolishly say, - “the Lord has never showed me mercy...I’ve suffered from every sin I’ve ever committed. –

1 – No you haven’t, because you can’t even name all the sins you’ve, every committed. Had the Lord not showed you mercy, you would have died on contact the moment you reached the stage of accountability.

Lamentations 3:21-23 – “This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”

- Mercy in your life and mine is spelled T I M E. He is bearing up with our iniquity, and He is passing by our transgressions, while we live. – That is a picture of the Lord’s Mercies.

There is Pleasure in Moving On

1 – “He retaineth not his anger for ever because He delighteth in mercy.”

*Note – The Lord never “bears up, or passes by” through clenched teeth. He Loves to show mercy! – He Loves to NOT prosecute you and me. His justice will demand it, but his love delays it; giving you and me time to repent.

*Note – All of that being said, that is a good clear picture of the Lord God’s definition and demonstration of Mercy toward the sins of men.

- I shouldn’t have to tell you that’s the standard!

C. It is Proactive toward men’s Needs

*Note – Not only is Mercy Reactive, but the Scripture also reveals it to be Proactive toward men's needs.

1.) Four times in the Old Testament, the Scriptures equate helping the poor with the demonstration of mercy.

a.) In Psalm 109:16, David is recounting the behavior of an enemy, and says – “Because that he remembered not to shew mercy, but persecuted the poor and needy man, that he might even slay the broken in heart.”

b.) Proverbs 14:21 – “He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.”

c.) Proverbs 13:21 – “He that oppreseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.”

d.) Daniel gave Nebuchadnezzar a spiritual and doctrinal lesson in 4:27 when he said – “Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquility.”

*Note – The proactive part of mercy is recognizing the pains of the unmet needs and ministering to those pains, supplying the need, or easing a burden, enduring alongside. This is a full portion of mercy.

*Note – Now all of that being said, The Essence of Mercy is an Interaction with Men's Pain, a Restraining Reaction to Men's Sins, and a Ready Pro-action towards men's needs.

That is a good picture of the word and concept that Jesus spoke of in our text.

- Now let's put the word in our text, in the context of the people that Jesus was preaching to. – Whatever it meant to them, is what it means now.

II. The Presence of Mercy

*Note – That subject to those people was both sweet and sour. When you think about the concept of mercy in the context of their lives, at least four New Testament realities come to light.

A. Was Missing from the Ministry

1.) Their religious leaders were loud on mandates, but were silent on mercy.

a.) *Matthew 23:5* – “For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.”

b.) *Matthew 23:23* – Jesus unloaded on the phony faithful, the foul-minded Pharisees saying – “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

*Note – The leading, front and center, religious ministry of the day was void of mercy.

- Let me give you one more picture of this for good measure . . . Do you remember the story Jesus told about the good Samaritan?

- A Lawyer asked Jesus just who is the neighbor that I'm obligated to love?

- A man fell among thieves, was beaten, robbed, and left for dead...

Before the Samaritan came to the man's rescue, there were two other men who passed him by...

- The Priest and the Levite

The priest led the rituals

The Levite held out the Law

The man that questioned Jesus about who his neighbor was received this answer from Jesus saying – (Luke 10:36-37) – *“Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”*

- The concept of mercy was so simple that even a lawyer could understand it.

- They were ministers without mercy, and were pictures of the climate of the time.

- Now listen – the law condemns, the letter killeth, Paul said, The first news all men have to receive is the bad news of sin, and the clear news of righteousness. But the bad news of sin, and the clear news of righteousness is not the only news there is. There is the Good news of God's Mercy, and God's Grace, and God's Son.

- The Pharisees enjoyed it, when people realized that they just weren't good enough. They had turned the ministry from a mercy to a misery, and for Jesus proclaim this to the people was to condemn their clergy.

While the Pharisees were loud on Mandates they had ignored the mandate to BE a Merciful person.

B. Was Mandated by the Lord

1.) As we said last week – Anyone with a working knowledge of the Bible of that time would have known of the prophet Micah, and what he said in 6:8 – “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

*Note – Lack of mercy was not a matter of blind ignorance. Lack of mercy was due to disinterested rebellion!

- The Pharisees who were experts in the “law and the prophets” had been shown by God what was good, and what He required...

- a.) to LOVE mercy

*Note - - Realize this . . . you can show mercy, without being a merciful person. You can show mercy through clenched teeth, but that doesn't rise to the level of being “merciful.”

C. Was Manifested in Jesus

1.) the fullness of his earthly ministry was the embodiment of mercy – the personification of mercy.

- a.) healing the sick
- b.) feeding the hungry
- c.) not condemning the harlot
- d.) eating with sinners/ and Pharisees
- e.) supplying needs
- f.) ministering to the pains of people indiscriminately...

*Note – Mercy was living and breathing and speaking to those who were suffering, and sorrowing, and soured. –

Now – as Christ’s ministry would unfold from this point, time and again, people would appeal to Christ for mercy. Not just for sentiment and sympathy, but for the kind of Mercy that would change their lives forever.

Matthew 9:27 – Two blind men cried out saying – “Son of David have mercy on us.”

Matthew 15:22 – A woman whose daughter was saturated with Satan, filled with a fallen angel came to Jesus and begged, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.”

Matthew 17:15 – a man came pleading for his son saying to Jesus – “Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.”

*Note – These people essentially recognized that Christ had the power to help, but it would be in mercy they found His desire to help.

*Note – now all of that being said, for those people the Presence of Mercy – was missing from their ministry, is mandated by the Lord, and it is manifested in Jesus, and it is still manifested in Him today.

III. The Science of Mercy

- Here is the blessing and the promise – “they shall obtain mercy.” “Mercy begets mercy.” – Mercy will be shown to them.

- Where and how does mercy come from, and how does it get in me?

A. The Source of Mercy – it’s Fountainhead

1.) It is from the very nature of God Himself.

a.) Psalm 103:17 – “But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children’s children;”

*Note – it is in His nature and character and is as eternal as He is. It is a fundamental attribute of God.

B. The Course of Mercy – the forgiveness of man

1.) Titus 3:5 – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

*Note – Mercy flows from the fountain of God’s nature, and the ultimate fruit of that mercy is the God’s work of saving us! – What good does mercy do? It is the motive and movement that drove Jesus to the cross for me and for you.

*Note – do you know why mercy begets mercy? – You reap what you sow.

C. The Force of Mercy – to favor or falter

1.) Mercy in you and from you has a far greater impact upon your life than you may realize.

a.) It can add goodness to your life -

Proverbs 11:17 – “The merciful man doeth good to his own soul.”

- Mercy begets mercy – “The merciful shall obtain mercy”

- King David had this down, long before Jesus said it. In 2nd Samuel 22, David wrote a psalm of thanksgiving, and in verse 26 of that psalm, he wrote – “*With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright.*”

- Now preacher, do I obtain mercy, or am I obtaining mercy?

– The answer to that is yes.

*Note – Commentarian R.C. Trench stated - “The Christian stands in the middle, he has both received mercy, and yet still stands in need of mercy.

Merciful hearts, receive merciful treatment from the Lord. – Those who have received the mercy of God, are the ones capable of showing the mercy of God.

Luke 6:36 – Jesus said – “Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.”

*note – Mercy can add goodness to your life – lack of it can add grief to your judgment.

b.) James 2:13 – “He shall have judgment without mercy, who showed no mercy.”

Judgment without mercy.

- Now he is not saying that showing mercy is the means of our salvation. He is saying that even the lost will intensify their judgment through showing no mercy.

- Furthermore, one who shows no mercy, has never met the mercy of the Lord, and is outright lost.

Conclusion: How do I receive the mercy of the Lord?

Psalms 85:9-10 – “Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.”

- Truth with God – Brings Mercy to Man.

- Mercy is resting on the truth.

(1) that you are guilty and He is righteous

(2) that you are in deep need for Him

(3) that He is who He says He is

- Truth from you, brings Mercy from Him