

## “Blessed Are The Merciful”

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by Wayne Goff

**“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”** (Matthew 5:7). Dear reader, are you merciful?!

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus was speaking about judging one another in verse 7. Some are harsh and bitter in their judgments of others, while some are kind, patient, longsuffering and forgiving. Jesus teaches us to be merciful in our treatment of others, and there are several reasons for it.

### God Is Merciful

If anybody was ever *undeserving* of mercy, then it would be sinful man. He was God’s **enemy** when God mercifully offered salvation through Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:8)! Everyone who has been saved by the *grace and mercy of God* should know to be merciful to others.

*“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust”* (Matt. 5:44-45). We are being *transformed* into the image of God when we learn to love those who hate us, and when we learn to do good to those who would seek to harm us. God wants us to be like Him! God desires to show mercy to everyone (read Rom. 11:30-32).

### A Cheerful Heart

I think instantly of two cases where we, as disciples of Christ, are encouraged to have “*cheerfulness*” when we exercise our obligations. First, in giving back to God of our money, we are admonished to be “*cheerful givers*” (2 Cor. 9:7). God **loves** them who give cheerfully! Secondly, in Romans 12:8, the apostle Paul said that when we “*show mercy*” to do so “*with cheerfulness.*” The sincere act of showing mercy will always be without regret.

### God Commands It!

*“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on **tender mercies**, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also **must do**”* (Col. 3:12-13). God expects His obedient children to be kind, humble, meek, longsuffering, forgiving, and full of “*tender mercies.*” He **absolutely** does not want His family to be torn asunder by anger, malice, bitterness, and wrath. **Christ died for us all!**

### You Reap What You Sow

God reminds us to pray to *be forgiven* as we *forgive* those who sin against us (Matt. 6:12). Jesus told Peter that he should forgive his offender *seventy times seven* in a day (Matt. 18:22)! One day the tables will be turned. One day we will be the one seeking mercy and forgiveness. Can we honestly expect to be forgiven when we refused to forgive? If so, then read again Jesus’ parable about the King and his servants (Matt. 18:23-35).

God is a great rewarder of how we sow in this life. If we fill up our own “*cup of wrath,*” then don’t be surprised when God turns it back on our own heads again (Jer. 1:13-16; 25:15-17). Each one of us will reap as we have sown (Gal. 6:7).

*“For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment”* (James 2:13).

### Jesus Died To Reunite People

*“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation. . . . and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross . . . . And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near”* (Eph. 2:14, 16-17).