



Message Recap

Jesus said, "**Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**" Mercy is much more than simply feeling sorry for someone or relieving temporary suffering. Mercy is compassion that moves toward someone's visible suffering or invisible brokenness with the goal of restoration—even when it comes at personal cost.

Jesus demonstrated this kind of mercy throughout His ministry. He saw what others overlooked, moved toward the broken instead of away from them, spoke truth in love, and ultimately gave His own life so we could be restored to God. Followers of Jesus don't extend mercy to earn God's approval—they extend mercy because they have already received God's mercy through Christ.

Icebreaker

Describe a time when someone showed you unexpected kindness or mercy. What made it so memorable?

Read Together:

Matthew 5:1-12

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out most to you from Sunday's message? Why?

2. How did the definition of mercy challenge or expand your understanding of what it means to be merciful?

Mercy is compassion that moves toward someone's visible suffering or invisible brokenness with the goal of restoration, even when it comes at personal cost.

3. Why do you think Jesus places mercy immediately after hungering and thirsting for righteousness in the Beatitudes?

4. The message said that mercy is not:

- rescuing people from every consequence,
- enabling destructive behavior,
- excusing or approving sin,
- or withholding truth to avoid discomfort.

Which of these misunderstandings of mercy do you think is most common today? Why?

5. Jesus was repeatedly described as having compassion for people.

Read Matthew 9:36.

What do you think Jesus saw in the crowds that others failed to notice?

How can we learn to see people the way Jesus does?

6. The Good Samaritan didn't simply feel compassion—he acted.

Where do you think God may be inviting you to move toward someone instead of away from them this week?

What would taking one practical step of mercy look like?

7. The message ended by reminding us that before we are the Good Samaritan, we are the man lying in the ditch.

How does remembering the mercy Jesus has shown you change the way you respond to difficult, hurting, or sinful people?

Challenge This Week

Every day this week, ask God to help you notice people the way Jesus notices them.

When you encounter someone carrying visible suffering or invisible brokenness, don't ask:

"What do they deserve?"

Instead ask:

"What does mercy require of me?"

Then take one intentional step toward that person in love, truth, and compassion.

Prayer

Father, thank You for showing us mercy through Jesus. We were the ones lying wounded because of our sin, and You did not pass us by. Give us eyes to see people the way Jesus sees them. Break our hearts with what breaks Yours. Fill us with compassion that moves us toward those who are hurting and broken. Help us extend truth, grace, and sacrificial love so that others might experience the mercy You have shown us. In Jesus' name, Amen.