

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

Merciful people are beautiful! We all need mercy! God is merciful, and He blesses the merciful with mercy.

Matthew 5:7 (NKJV)

7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

“When this beatitude addresses those who will show mercy, it speaks to those who have already received mercy.” (David Guzik) We do not earn salvation by being merciful. Rather, because we have already been saved, we should then be merciful. It’s a matter of bearing good fruit.

God expects His kingdom children to be merciful because they have received mercy. And in the showing of mercy, they are blessed and receive even more mercy.

God is a merciful God, and His children are therefore also called to be merciful. We reap what we sow and as we extend mercy, we reap mercy. This is certainly true in relationship to kingdom rewards.

“The chief reference may be to the mercy of God in the final awards of the kingdom, but the application need not be restricted to this.”

– ***Expositors Greek Testament – A.B. Bruce***

In this harsh old world, it is God’s people who are to be the “balm” of mercy. It is kingdom people who are to be a merciful influence of kindness and caring in a God-honoring way.

Mercy cares about the hurting. It takes pity on those who are in misery because of their own foolishness.

“The ‘merciful’ are characterized by a caring attitude for those who are in misery (v. 7).” – ***Spiros Zodhiates***

But there is more! To be merciful is to be actively compassionate, but it goes even further - being extended towards those who don’t deserve it.

It is one thing to have pity on those who deserve it, but mercy extends pity and sympathy towards those who don’t deserve it. That is God-like. God cares about people who don’t deserve His care. That is mercy!

GRACE – In undeserved favor, God gives us what we DON'T deserve.
MERCY – In pity for us in our misery, God DOESN'T give us what we DO deserve.

There is overlap, but in terms of emphasis, mercy has compassion on people in the misery of their sinfulness, while grace bestows the unmerited favor of forgiveness. Grace deals with the guilt – mercy with the consequences.

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