

KINGDOM LIFE

OUTRAGEOUS HOPE
FOR ORDINARY LIFE

A WORSHIP SERIES THROUGH
JESUS' SERMON ON THE MOUNT



Matthew 5:1-9

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ **“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.**

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**



⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

“Lord Have Mercy”

Active Compassion

**Extending grace to someone
who, by definition, doesn’t
“deserve” it.**

**Standing shoulder to shoulder,
not above and below.**

Mercy



The Beatitudes

Empty
Hands

³ *“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Dirty
Hands

⁴ *“Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.*

Open
Hands

⁵ *“Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.*

Outstretched
Hands

⁶ *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.*



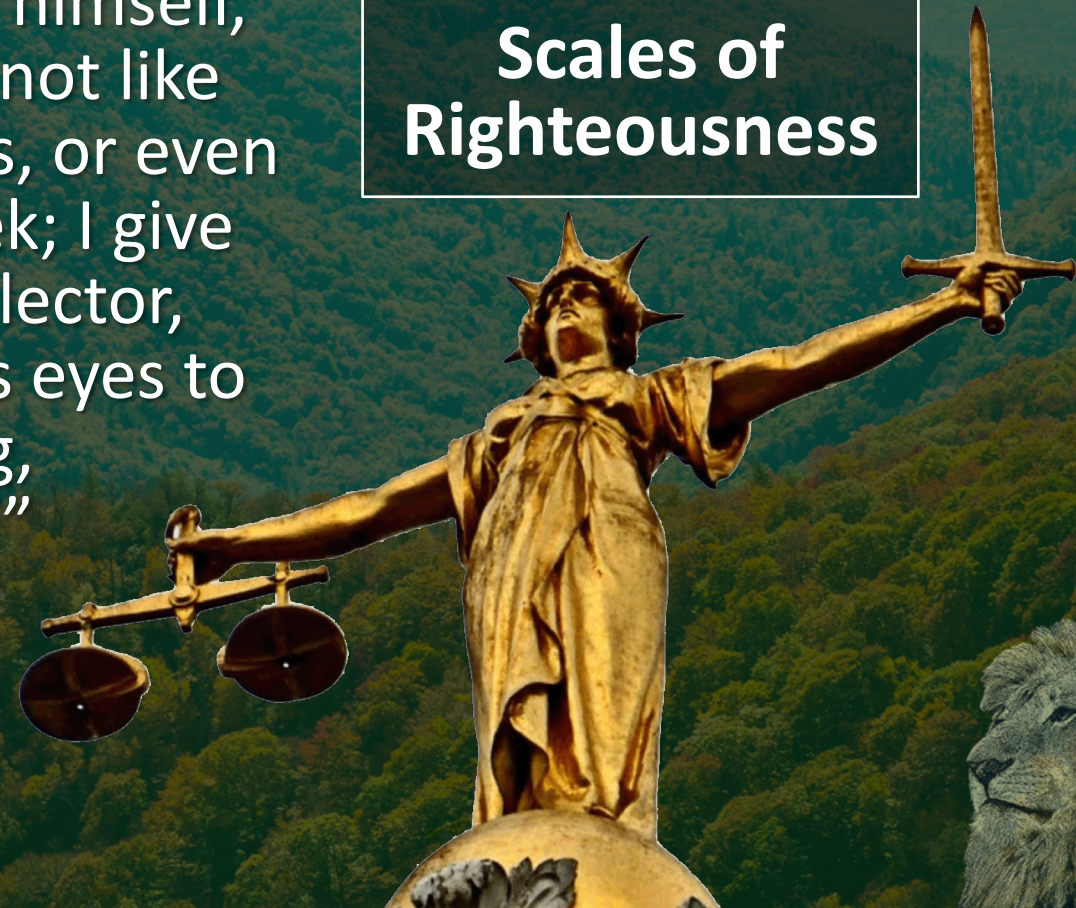
⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

Luke 18:9-13

(Jesus) also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were *righteous*, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’”

**Mercy-Behavior
without a
Mercy-Heart**

**Scales of
Righteousness**

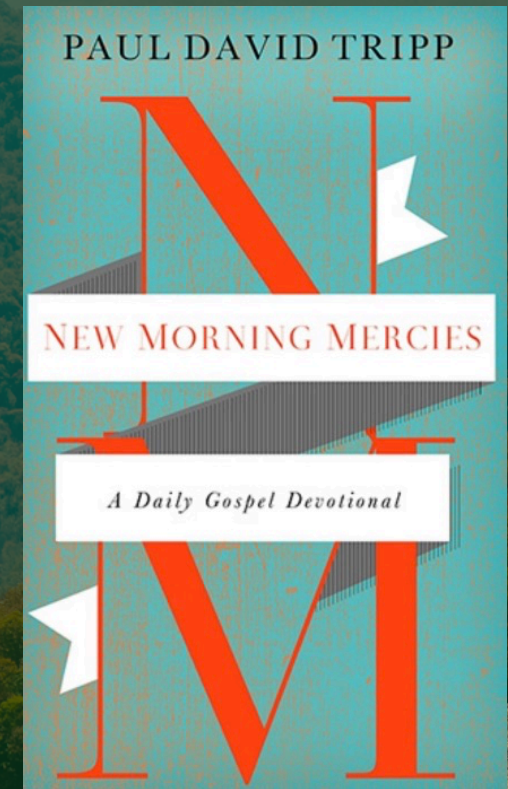


⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

Heaven have mercy on us all - Presbyterians and Pagans alike - for we are all somehow dreadfully cracked about the head, and sadly need mending.
Herman Melville

We celebrate God's mercy but scream at our children when they mess up. We sing of amazing grace but punish our spouses with silence when they offend us. We praise God for his love but forsake a friendship because someone has been momentarily disloyal. We are thankful that we've been forgiven but say that a person who is suffering the result of his decisions is getting what he deserves. We bask in God's grace but throw the law at others. We're simply not that good at mercy because we tend to see ourselves as more deserving than the poor and needy.

It's natural to want mercy for yourself but justice for others. It's natural to be very aware of the sin of others, yet blind to your own. If we are ever going to be people of mercy, we need bountiful mercy ourselves, because what stands in the way of our being a community of mercy is us!



⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

Psalm 51

A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Have **mercy** on me, O God,
according to **your steadfast love**;
according to **your abundant mercy**
blot out my transgressions.

² **Wash** me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and **cleanse** me from my sin!



⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were **dead** in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

Hebrews 2:17

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make **propitiation** for the sins of the people.

Jesus: Shoulder to Shoulder Active Compassion



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

Lamentations 3

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;

²³ they are **new every morning**;
great is your faithfulness.

**Justice Paid...
and refreshed Daily**

To the level I realize
I need and have
been given mercy is
the level I, from the
heart, extend mercy.

others. And as you begin to remember that God's mercy is your only hope and you meditate on the grandeur of the mercy that has been showered on you, you begin to want to help others experience that same mercy. You see, to the degree that you forget the mercy you've been given, it is easier for you to not give mercy to others. I daily need God's work of mercy in order to do his work of mercy.



⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

James 2:12-13

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. ***Mercy triumphs over judgment.***

Who is “below” than you?
Who is “above” than you?
Who “owes” you?

Mercy isn't necessarily erasing all consequences, but begins with having a gracious heart toward someone, and then prayerfully (and wisely) “treating them the way you want to be treated”.

(FYI – this “golden rule” is coming up soon in this series)



⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

Why don't we?

Justice

As God's image-bearers, we have a natural demand for justice.

“It's not fair!”

Costly

Mercy means we have to:

- 1) Enter the mud pit
- 2) Pay a price



⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, *for they shall receive mercy.*”

Jesus entered our mud pit, paid our price and gave us his life.

Mercy Rebounds:

When we extend mercy to others, we are living out the Divine Image of Jesus, which in turn frees us from the debt-burden



⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

PeaceMaking is
Mercy Gone Viral

PeaceMakers vs.
PeaceKeepers

Horizontally

Agents of reconciliation between each other
Confronting Gossip and Slander
(that's coming up soon in Jesus' sermon)



⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

Vertically

Agents of reconciliation between us and God

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

The New Building...place of reconciliation.
Not just acts of mercy (which are great)
But hearts of mercy that require sacrifice.

When we do this, we are living out our identity as “Sons of God”

The Mercy We Make

