

THE BLESSED MERCIFUL
Matthew 5:1-7

Oakridge Community Church
Questions for Consideration and Discussion

Introduction:

1. Primary emphasis of Jesus' teaching: being
2. Possibility of becoming what Jesus calls for naturally: nil

I. THE MERCIFUL

- A. The meaning of *mercy*: active compassion toward those in need
 1. Heartfelt compassion – Matthew 20:30; 15:22; 17:15
 2. Active compassion – Matthew 20:34; 15:28; 17:18
- B. The expressions of *mercy*
 1. Help for the needy – Luke 12:33
 2. Forgiveness toward the guilty – Matthew 18:21-33
- C. The motivation of *mercy* – Matthew 18:21-35

II. THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE MERCIFUL

** James 2:13

- A. Mercy in this life
 1. Ephesians 2:4-6
 2. Titus 3:3-5
 3. Hebrews 4:16
- B. Mercy in the judgment – Jude 20-21

Conclusion

The Blessed Merciful
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1. Why does Martyn Lloyd-Jones say that the Christian gospel puts the primary emphasis on being rather than doing? What does he mean by that? How does this affect how we approach the beatitudes?
2. What are the two elements to true mercy? Discuss a time when you demonstrated one without the other? In what way did it fail to reveal the true nature of our merciful God?
3. Discuss the similarities and differences between *grace* and *mercy*. How have you experienced both?
4. How has mercy toward others been expressed in your life? How does the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matt. 18:23-35) serve as a gospel-oriented motivation to show mercy?
5. What are the blessings of the merciful that are experienced in this life? What are some specific ways you are experiencing these blessings? What does it reveal if these blessings in your life are few? What is the solution to a more merciful life?
6. Interview those closest to you and ask if they would describe you as a merciful person. Do you see yourself in dire need of mercy? Why? Are you daily finding grace and mercy in the person and work of Jesus Christ?