

The Mirror of Mercy

Matthew 5:7 — “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

The Meaning of Mercy

- Mercy is **compassion that moves to action**.
 - Two expressions throughout Scripture:
 1. **Mercy for the guilty** — forgiveness that withholds punishment.
 2. **Mercy for the hurting** — compassion that relieves suffering.
 - “Mercy is undeserved help, unearned care, and unconditional kindness.”
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The God of Mercy

- Mercy begins with **who God is**.
 - Exodus 34:6 — “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious...”
 - Mercy is not God’s reaction — it’s His **nature**.
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3 — “The Father of mercies.”
 - “Mercy is not a contradiction to God’s holiness; it flows from the very **heart** of God.”
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The Reflection of Mercy

- Mercy received becomes mercy **reflected**.
- The world’s mercy is **reciprocal**; the believer’s mercy is **reflective**.

- Luke 6:36 — “Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”
 - What we have received in such **abundance**, we must **dispense abundantly**.
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The Expression of Mercy

Mercy for the Hurting

- Compassion that relieves suffering.
- “Mercy is getting down on your hands and knees to restore dignity to the broken.” — *Sinclair Ferguson*
- The gospel both **preaches truth** and **touches the leper**.
- Acts of mercy open doors for the message of mercy.

Mercy for the Guilty

- Forgiveness that releases the undeserving.
 - Matthew 18:33 — “Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?”
 - “To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” — *C.S. Lewis*
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The Promise of Mercy

- Present mercy: **forgiveness** and **daily grace** (Titus 3:5).
- Future mercy: **final rescue** from sin and death (Jude 21).
- “God’s mercy produces our mercy, and our mercy ends with His mercy poured out forever.”
- One day we will look into the eyes of a holy God and see not **wrath**, but **welcome**.

Reflection and Response

1. **The Mercy of God:** Have I been *changed* by God's mercy or just *touched* by it?
2. **Mercy for the Suffering:** Who's hurting around me that I've *walked past instead of toward*?
3. **Mercy for the Guilty:** Who do I need to *forgive* as one who's been forgiven?