

*Mercy to the Merciful*  
*Matthew 5:7*

**ETS:** Those who show mercy are blessed

**ESS:** The merciful are blessed because they will receive mercy

**OSS:** Mercy givers are mercy receivers

**PQ:** Are you a mercy giver?

**ME**

Christmas is about a month away!

- Are you making your Christmas list?
  - Do you know what you want?

I love Christmas time

- I like the decorated trees, city streets, and the atmosphere
  - I like the songs playing in the stores, the Christmas hymns, etc.

When **I** was a **kid**, I could think of a thousand things I wanted for Christmas!

- A bike, a video game, a game, etc.
  - There were some things I got that I didn't necessarily want: clothes!

**WE**

Christmas is that day that is always looming on the horizon!

- We start **counting** down the days till Christmas
  - Now, *we are counting down the days until we count down the days until Christmas!*
    - One of the TV stations is starting the “Countdown to 25 Days of Christmas”
      - Countdown is from **Nov 10-30<sup>th</sup>** then starting Dec. 1 they will start the “25 Days till Christmas”

The gifts people want at Christmas are varied:

- Kids want toys
- Teenagers want video games, sports equipment, etc.
- Adults want jewelry, stereo systems, big screen TVs, etc.

Some of you might be thinking “**That’s not what I want!**”

- That is probably true, because **everyone** has **different ideas** of that special gift.

However, I know of one **gift** that **EVERYONE** wants!

- Everyone here wants this gift!
  - If you don’t think you want it now, you will!
- **You** will want people to **give this gift to you**

- **People** will want **you** to **give** this gift to **them!**

It is the most **wonderful** gift in the world to **receive**

- Yet it is the most **difficult** gift to **give!**
  - In fact, it is *almost impossible* to **give** this **gift** unless you have already **received** it!

What is this gift? It is the Gift of Mercy!

**GOD**

## HOW TO HAVE A BLEST LIFE? BE MERCIFUL

Turn to **Matthew 5:7**

Jesus is teaching these beatitudes to His disciples.

- From what we know of these men, many are **fishermen**.
  - They are **weathered, hard-working, strong blue-collar** workers
- *These men were probably not known for mercy!*
  - They **killed fish** for a living!

Jesus looks at them and says: **Matthew 5:7:** “**Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**”

What is Mercy?

- **Mercy:** *Not getting what I deserve.*

## Turn to **1 Samuel 24**

### Background

- Story of 2 people: A king named Saul and a young man named David

### **Saul** was the **first king** of Israel

- Saul's **first encounter** with David was when they faced a giant called **Goliath**
  - **David defeated** Goliath (much to Saul's surprise) and **Saul elevated** David to a high position in his army
  - **David** became a **very successful military** leader so much so that Saul began to get jealous of David
- **Saul's jealousy** turned into **physical violence**
  - On more than one occasion Saul **threw a spear at David**
  - Saul used David's **love** for his **daughter** to **lure him** into a trap by demanding **David kill 100 of the nation's enemies** and bring back evidence that he had done it.
    - David killed 100 of the enemies and brought back the evidence

- After another war in which **David was victorious**, **Saul's jealousy** overtook him and he was **obsessed** with **killing** David.
  - **David had to leave his home** and his wife and run for his life.
    - David had to **keep one step ahead** of Saul or he would be killed
- **Saul started killing anyone** who helped David-**including priests**
- David was **constantly on-the-run**
  - David lived in the **desert cities**, in the **foothills** and in **caves**.

There is one other important element to this story:  
**David had been anointed by Samuel the prophet to be the king!**

- Because of **Saul's pride and rebellion**, God had had **Samuel anoint David** as the next king
  - Yet, he is on-the-run b/c the current king is trying to kill him!

**1 Sa 24:1-4** “When Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the wilderness near En-gedi.” 2 So Saul took three thousand of Israel's fit young men and went to look for David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats. 3 When Saul came to the sheep pens along the road, a

cave was there, and he went in to relieve himself. David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave, 4 so they said to him, “Look, this is the day the Lord told you about: ‘I will hand your enemy over to you so you can do to him whatever you desire.’” Then David got up and secretly cut off the corner of Saul’s robe.” (CSB)

- So David and his men are hiding in this cave when Saul comes into the cave to “do his business” (*even kings have to go to the bathroom!*)

This is the **perfect opportunity!**

- David can sneak up behind Saul while Saul is “*on the throne*” (so to speak) and kill him!
  - **David can get revenge!**
    - **Revenge** for all those times Saul threw his **spear** at David
    - **Revenge** for being **on-the-run** when he should be sitting on the throne of the kingdom
    - **Revenge** for **tearing** David away from his **home** and **wife**
    - **Revenge** for putting a **bounty** out on David’s head!

David’s men are pumped about this opportunity!

- According to **1 Samuel 22:2** the **men** that were **with David** were men who “**desperate, in debt, or discontented**”
  - These **men didn’t** have much **love** for the **king** or the **government!**
    - In fact, they **probably** signed on with David b/c they thought that they would get to **see revenge** on Saul!
      - This was their opportunity so David’s men are saying “**Look, this is the day the Lord told you about: ‘I will hand your enemy over to you so you can do to him whatever you desire.’**”
        - So David goes and sneaks up behind Saul and cuts off a part of his robe!

### Why didn’t David kill Saul?

- **Saul deserved to die!**
  - David had every right to kill Saul!

**1 Sa 24:5-7** “Afterward, David’s conscience bothered him because he had cut off the corner of Saul’s robe. 6 He said to his men, “As the Lord is my witness, I would never do such a thing to my lord, the Lord’s anointed. I will never lift my hand against him, since he is the Lord’s anointed.” 7 With these

words David persuaded his men, and he did not let them rise up against Saul." (CSB)

- It seems that David gets up with the **intention to kill** Saul, but somewhere along the way, he starts having **second thoughts** so he just cuts off a corner of Saul's robe
  - Then David starts feeling bad about that!

David's men are shocked!

- David tells his men **he will not kill Saul** b/c Saul is the "**Lord's anointed.**"
  - **Saul deserved to die but David didn't kill him!**

Once Saul leaves the cave and is a good distance away David calls out to him and waves the piece of his robe.

- Saul could obviously tell part of his robe was missing
- Saul realized David could have easily killed him.

**1 Sa 24:16-20** "When David finished saying these things to him, Saul replied, "Is that your voice, David my son?" Then Saul wept aloud 17 and said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have done what is good to me though I have done what is evil to you. 18 You yourself have told me today what good

you did for me: when the Lord handed me over to you, you didn't kill me. 19 When a man finds his enemy, does he let him go unharmed? May the Lord repay you with good for what you've done for me today. 20 "Now I know for certain you will be king, and the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand. (CSB)

### WHY did David do this?

- Why didn't he kill Saul?
  - Did he think this act of mercy would end Saul's pursuit of him?
    - **Maybe, but it didn't**

Saul **did not relinquish** the throne to David

- David **continued** to live in the **desert**
- Saul did David dirty by **giving his wife** (who was Saul's daughter) to **another man!**
  - Saul probably argued that David had abandoned her.

Time passes and Saul again decides he has to eliminate David!

- **1 Sa 26:1-2** "Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah saying, "David is hiding on the hill of Hachilah opposite Jeshimon." 2 So Saul, accompanied by three thousand of the fit young

men of Israel, went immediately to the Wilderness of Ziph to search for David there.”

David finds out that Saul is again after him and is in the area

- David finds out where Saul is at
- That night **David** and a friend named **Abishai** sneak into Saul’s camp

Saul is asleep with his spear stuck in the ground next to his head

- (Those who are supposed to be guarding Saul are asleep as well)

**1 Sa 26:8** "Then Abishai said to David, “Today God has delivered your enemy to you. Let me thrust the spear through him into the ground just once. I won’t have to strike him twice!” (CSB)

- Abishai has no qualms about killing Saul!
  - In Abishai’s book, Saul **deserved** to be killed!

**1 Sa 26:9-11** “But David said to Abishai, “Don’t destroy him, for who can lift a hand against the Lord’s anointed and be innocent?” 10 David added, “As the Lord lives, the Lord will certainly strike him down: either his day will come and he will die, or he

will go into battle and perish. 11 However, as the Lord is my witness, I will never lift my hand against the Lord's anointed. Instead, take the spear and the water jug by his head, and let's go." (CSB)

- So David and Abishai go outside the camp to a nearby hill and David yells at the camp and wakes them up!
  - **1 Sa 26:17-19** "Saul recognized David's voice and asked, "Is that your voice, my son David?" "It is my voice, my lord and king," David said. Then he continued, "Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done? What evil is in my hand?"
    - David is reminding Saul that there is no reason for him to try to kill him!
      - David goes onto remind Saul that he has been forced to be on-the-run for no reason other than Saul's hatred of him!

**1 Sa 26:21-24** "Saul recognized David's voice and asked, "Is that your voice, my son David?" "It is my voice, my lord and king," David said. 18 Then he continued, "Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done? What crime have I committed? 19 Now, may my lord the king please hear the words of his servant: If it is the Lord who has incited you against me, then may he accept an offering. But if it

is people, may they be cursed in the presence of the Lord, for today they have banished me from sharing in the inheritance of the Lord, saying, ‘Go and worship other gods.’ (CSB)

- Again, David could have killed Saul-Saul deserved it!
  - But David didn’t do it!

### WHY didn’t David kill Saul?

Years before the prophet **Samuel** showed up at **David’s** house.

- **Samuel** said he was sent by God to **anoint** the next king of Israel
- **David’s** father, **Jesse**, paraded all his sons before Samuel-**except David!**
  - **God did not choose** any of Jesse’s sons
- **Samuel**, who is somewhat confused by this, asked if Jesse had anyone else
  - **Jesse admits** that he has another son!
    - Jesse didn’t even want to admit he had another son!
      - *David’s own father did not consider him to be worthy to be king!*

Jesse tells Samuel that David is busy tending sheep!

- In **Margaret Feinberg's** book *Scouting the Divine* she interviews a shepherdess.
  - According to the shepherdess, shepherds are often the lowest rung of the societal ladder.
    - Tending the sheep was the job for the youngest son or the women in the family.
      - According to the biblical description of him, many think he was around **10-15 years old**.

David has the **lowest job** in the house

- Samuel commands Jesse to “**send for him**”.
  - Samuel tells David's father, “**we will not sit down until he arrives**”

David comes in, *smelling like sheep*, and Samuel shocks the family by **anointing** him “**in the presence of his brothers**”

- Did David **deserve** to be anointed king? No. He was just a shepherd boy!
  - God showed **grace** on David

Fast-forward to the **cave** incident.

- Did Saul **deserve** to be killed? Yes!
  - Why didn't David kill him? He had **MERCY** on him!

## HOW TO HAVE A BLEST LIFE? BE MERCIFUL

Fast-forward to the **field** incident.

- Did Saul deserve to be killed? Yes!
  - Why didn't David kill him? He had mercy on him!

## HOW TO HAVE A BLEST LIFE? GIVE THE MERCY YOU HAVE RECIEVED

Did Saul *deserve* mercy? No!

- He had been trying to kill David-who was innocent!
  - He was trying to kill his son-in-law!

What did Saul deserve? To be killed!

- David had every reason to kill Saul!
- David had supporters who wanted him to kill Saul
- David was the rightful king to the throne!
  - Instead, David showed Saul mercy!

Suppose Saul suddenly realized David was behind him in the **cave**, do you think Saul would have begged for mercy? I do!

- Suppose Saul suddenly **woke up** and saw David standing over him with **spear** in hand, do you think Saul would have begged for mercy? I do!

### **Mercy is the one gift we *all* want!**

- When a student is **failing** a **class** does he/she want the **teacher** to have mercy? Yes!
- When you **mess up** at **work**, do you want your **boss** to have **mercy**? Yes!
- When you **hurt** a **friend** do you want mercy?  
Yes
- When you do something **stupid** and hurt your **marriage**, do you want mercy? Yes!

### **Mercy is the one gift we *all* want!**

### **Mercy is a gift!**

- Mercy is **not** something we **deserve** or it wouldn't be mercy!
- Mercy is **not** something we **earn** or it wouldn't be mercy!

### **Mercy is a gift!**

Jesus is telling His disciples: **“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”**

- **“O the blessedness of those who don't give people what they deserve!”**

When does a BLEST person show mercy?

**Always**

**Matthew 5:7:** “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

- WHO is Jesus saying we should show mercy to?
  - Trick question: He doesn't say!
    - **There is no object!**

“Blessed are the merciful”

- “Merciful” is an **adjective**
  - It is a description of a person

What kind of situations is this person merciful in?

- Jesus doesn't say!

Always show mercy!

- “Blessed is the person whose life is characterized by mercy”

*With this being the case, the next question is a no-brainer.....*

Who does a BLEST person show mercy to?

**To Those Who Do Not Deserve Mercy!**

So Jesus isn't telling whom to be "**merciful**" to or when to be "**merciful**"-He just says: "**Blessed is the person who is characterized by mercy.**"

**Jesus** epitomizes all of the beatitudes!

- When you study Jesus' ministry in the Gospels, you will keep running across people calling out to Jesus "**Have mercy on me!**"
  - Why would they ask Jesus to "Have mercy" on them?
    - **Jesus was a man of mercy!**
      - He would **touch** and **heal** the **lepers**
      - He would heal the **blind**, the **lame**, and the **demon-possessed**.
      - He would eat **super** with the outcasts-the **terrorists**, the **drug addicts**, the **alcoholics**, and the **prostitutes**
        - Whenever they sought mercy from Christ, He would give it!
    - **Jesus was a man of mercy!**

Why Does a BLEST PERSON SHOW MERCY?

**Mercy** receivers are mercy givers

**Matthew 5:7:** “Blessed are the merciful, (WHY?) for they will be shown mercy.

IF you have claimed to have received mercy from God, then you are **expected** to BE a merciful person.

- **Merciful** to those who have **hurt** you
- **Merciful** to those who **need** your **help**

**How Do BLEST PEOPLE SHOW MERCY?**

**Extending Grace**

**WHAT is Grace?**

- **Grace:** Getting what I **do not** deserve

God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins-that is **grace!**

God is **not sending** Christ-followers to hell-that is **mercy!**

*Grace and mercy work together!*

- Because of God’s **grace** we have *access* to what **we do not deserve-salvation**
- Because of God’s **mercy** we **escape** what **we deserve-hell**
  - Those who **respond** to God’s grace are **recipients** of God’s **mercy!**

WHAT did David say when he showed **grace** to Saul?

- **1 Sa 24:12** “May the Lord judge between me and you, and may the Lord take vengeance on you for me, but my hand will never be against you.” (CSB)
  - Saul **received** what he **did not** deserve-his life spared!
    - **Saul** was a **recipient** of **grace**
  - Saul **did not** get what he *deserved*-death
    - **Saul** was a **recipient** of **mercy!**

### WHY did David show Saul mercy?

- I believe it was because he was a recipient of God’s **grace**
  - God had given David what he did **not deserve**: the **rule** of the nation!
  - God had given David what he did **not deserve**: unmatched **military** victory
  - God had given David what he did **not deserve**: **protection** from Saul

Because David was a recipient of God’s grace and mercy, he could give grace and mercy!

**HOW TO HAVE A BLEST LIFE?  
BE MERCIFUL**

**YOU**

There are two tests you and I can apply to see if you show mercy

### **Test 1: Forgiveness of others**

**Matthew 5:7:** “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

- The test is this: If we refuse to exercise mercy by extending forgiveness, we are **not** Christians.<sup>1</sup>

**Mt 6:14-15** “For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. 15 But if you don’t forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses.” (CSB)

- If you refuse to forgive people of their wrongdoing, you aren’t a Christ follower!

According to Jesus, the “merciful alone will be shown mercy”

## **HOW TO HAVE A BLEST LIFE? BE MERCIFUL**

Is there someone whom you are refusing to forgive?

- If you have received God’s forgiveness, there is no excuse!

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<sup>1</sup>R. Kent Hughes, *The Sermon on the Mount : The Message of the Kingdom*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001), 49.

**PQ:** Are you merciful?

**Test 2:** Gives to Those Who Don't Deserve it

- Not giving people what they deserve

**PQ:** Are you merciful?