

October 7, 2018

Speaker: Tim McCardel

Message Series: Finding... Joy

Today's Message: Joyful Are The... Merciful

The Beatitudes: describe the character of the person who is _____ Christ, who has been touched by His Spirit and is now being transformed into His image.

The Struggle: I have my “_____” that makes me think I am better than others, so I am very reluctant to take another's shame upon myself.

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

Joyful Are The... Merciful

1. The Meaning of Mercy

1) “**Grace In Action**” - love reaching out to those who actually _____ God's judgement

John 7:37, 38 “*If any man thirst, let him come to Me and drink. He that believes on Me... out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*”

Truth: Mercy is a desperately needed gift of God's loving, redemptive work on behalf of sinful humans—and so Christ _____ His followers to follow His example and show mercy to others.

Matthew 5:44-47 “*Love your enemies... For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? ... how are you different from anyone else?”*

2) **Followers of Christ** - are to be _____ thru which God's love and mercy flow out to others who have wringed us, hurt us, or shamed us.

Matthew 6:14, 15 “*If you forgive those who sin against you, your Heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.*”

3) **Mercy Is “Compassion In Action”** - not just _____ compassion but showing, doing—not pretending helpers—not self-satisfied and self-righteous, not passive but selfless.

Romans 5:5 “*... because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts thru the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*”

“**If Satan:** can take the mercy out of Christianity—he has killed its effectiveness.”

2. Putting Mercy Into _____

Ephesians 2:4, 5 “*But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love, which He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, made us alive.*”

Reality: Mercy acts because of need but there can be no true mercy apart from love!

1 Corinthians 13:4, 6, 7 “*Love is patient and kind... It does not rejoice in evil but rejoices in the truth. Love never gives up, never loses faith, always hopes, always perseveres.*”

The Apostle Paul: was delivered from his prejudices and mercy became the pattern of his life.

Romans 12:1 *“Therefore, I urge you... in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”*

Matthew 25:41-45 *“Then He will say... ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire... For I was hungry... I was thirsty and you gave me nothing... I was in prison and you did not look after me... Truly I will tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’”*

⇒ When we are merciful, we receive mercy from God.