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Beatitudes: THE MERCIFUL

Matthew 5:3-11: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

V. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Matthew 18:21-35: Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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Instinct: Judgement

v. .28 "...‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

- Sin creates a you owe me mentality.
- We’ve become great judges of others’ sin but great lawyers of our own.

Reality: Mercy triumphs over judgement (James 2:13)

Remind ourselves how merciful God is to us

v. 27 : The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

Matthew 6:12: And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

New posture: Growing in the ministry of mercy

- Remember, we will all face God one day.

v. 35 This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.

James 2:13: So you must show mercy to others, or God will not show mercy to you when he judges you. But the person who shows mercy can stand without fear at the judgment.

- Submit to the law of love

1 Corinthians 13:4-5: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

- Ask God to restore what has been lost...

V. 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

- Ask for the Holy Spirit’s help to release debts owed to you

Ephesians 4:30: Grieve not the Holy Spirit by which you were sealed to the day of redemption... Forgiving one another as God, for Christ’s sake, has forgiven you.