

Beatitudes: THE MERCIFUL

ICE BREAKER

- We all have a longing for God and his design, but we run toward plenty of things to fill the longing and it ultimately isn't good. Where do you see us doing this as a culture? What do you struggle with running towards or hungering after that isn't God's design or desire?

Matthew 5:3-11

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

- Mercy - not giving someone what they deserve.

Matthew 18:21-35

Instinct: Judgment

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 judgment" (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

New posture: Growing in the ministry of mercy

- Remember, we will all face God one day.

V35; James 2:13

- Submit to the law of love (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)
- Ask God to restore what has been lost...(V34)
- Ask for the Holy Spirit's help to release debts owed to you (Ephesians 4:30)

How is this beatitude different than the first four in its expectations of Christ followers?

How is mercy different from sympathy?

Who in my life needs my mercy right now?

APPLICATION

- Do I need to surrender my life to Jesus Christ and have my sins forgiven?
- What is one takeaway from today's message?