

LIVING MERCY

Matthew 5:7

The Kingdom Experiment Week 5

Mercy is what God DOESN'T give that we do DESERVE.

Grace is what God GIVES that we don't DESERVE.

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

Good News: We don't GET what we DESERVE. That's MERCY.

*“As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. “Follow me,” He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him. “Later when Jesus was eating supper at Matthew's house with His close followers, a lot of disreputable characters came and joined them. When the Pharisees saw Him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit, and lit into Jesus' followers. “What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and riff-raff?” Jesus, overhearing, shot back, “Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means: ‘I'm after mercy, not religion.’ I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders.” – Matthew 9:9-13 (The Message)*

SACRIFICE is the LAW.

*“For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burn offerings.” – Hosea 6:6*

Merciful isn't an ADJECTIVE. It is a GAUGE: Mercy-Full.

*“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”- Matthew 18:21-22*

Mercy has the ability to FORGET. Not to keep SCORE, but to FORGIVE.

*“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 talents 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. "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 denarii. 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 you 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 greatly distressed 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 turned 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 from your heart." – Matthew 18:23-35*

#### MERCY-FILLED LIVING ENABLE US TO:

7. EXTEND it to others.
8. Stop trying to impress OTHERS, MYSELF and GOD.
9. Not WORRY if others show mercy to US.

#### WHO DO I NEED TO EXTEND MERCY TO:

- Those who have HURT me.
- Those who have LET me DOWN.
- Those who have FALLEN short of my EXPECTATIONS.
- Those who I have JUDGED.

*"The end of all things is near. Therefore, be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various administering God's grace is in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." – 1 Peter 4:7-11*

THIS WEEK'S KINGDOM EXPERIEMENT:

- Allow God to show you that person whom you are to extend mercy.
- Extend the same measure of mercy toward them as God has extended you.
- ACT ON it!

Be a living incarnation of Jesus in mercy to someone this week.