

Spiritual Blessedness, Part 5: Counter Cultural

Matthew 5:7

August 20, 2023

Main Point: Mercy should be characteristic of the redeemed.

⁴ *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.*

-Eph. 2:4-5

²² *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end.*

-Lam. 3:22

³⁶ *Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."*

-Lk. 10:36-37

1. Never forget where you would be without mercy

⁷ *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*

-Matt. 5:7

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

-1 Pet. 1:3

⁸ *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

-Ps. 103:8

2. Slow down and look for opportunities to help those in need

²⁷ *Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.*

-Prov. 3:27

...each of us will give an account of himself to God.

-Rom. 14:12

3. Forgive, even when they don't deserve it

²² *...Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.* ²³ *And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and*

*let us eat and celebrate.*²⁴ *For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.*

-Lk. 15:22-24

⁸ *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

-Rom. 5:8

³⁰ *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* ³¹ *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.* ³² *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

-Eph. 4:30-32

²⁷ *But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,* ²⁸ *bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.* ²⁹ *To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either.* ³⁰ *Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back.* ³¹ *And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.*

³² *If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.* ³³ *And if you do good to those who do*

good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.
³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But **love your enemies**, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ **Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.**

-Lk. 6:27-36

Conclusion and Application:

How is God calling **me to respond today?**

- Never forget where you would be w/o mercy
- Slow down, look for opportunities to help those in need
- Forgive others, even when they don't deserve it