

Blessing— Buckets of Mercy—05.17.2020

Scripture: Matthew 5.1-12

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Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

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

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Summary:

As we continue our Blessing series, Pastor Jacob guides us through Jesus’ statement that “blessed are those who are merciful for they will be shown mercy”. In a world that doesn’t excel in the mercy department, Jesus’ statement sounds counter cultural. You give something away, and you get what you need in return. Show mercy and compassion, you will see God’s mercy poured out over you. It’s not a transaction, but a result of the grace of God.

Study Questions:

- Pastor Jacob shared about an old box that contained reminders of mercy that he had received from a youth pastor years ago. When have you come across reminders of mercy that has been shown to you? A restored relationship? A second chance? A life you don’t feel that you deserve?
- Pastor Jacob also shared about the image of a bucket of mercy. He used the bucket as a symbol of extravagance. If we could carry around buckets of mercy for others during and after this time of global pandemic, then what would the world look like? Even while others are not showing mercy, our persistent pouring out of grace and forgiveness could change the world. Can you think of a time when your mercy quotient was low? Can you think of a time when the mercy you

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have received from others and from God became an overflow in your interaction with someone else? In the store? In the car? In your marriage or relationship with your kids?

- Name a segment of society where mercy seems to be in short supply. How could you show mercy in that place or among those people?

Prayer for Mercy

God, thank you for loving me.

Thank you for sending Jesus who has forgiven all my sins.

Right now, I place my trust in you.

I believe in you.

I receive your mercy.

I receive your grace.

I receive your love.

I choose today to live my life for you.

Thank you for saving me. Amen.