

The Key to a Blessed Life

SESSION 4 - YOUR MINISTRY OF MERCY

God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Matthew 5:7

WHY BE MERCIFUL TO OTHERS?

1. GOD HAS SHOWN MERCY.

God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (GNT)

2. GOD COMMANDS ME TO BE MERCIFUL.

God has told you what is good and what he requires from you... To do what is right with others, to love being merciful to others, and to live humbly in fellowship with God.

Micah 6:8

I don't want your sacrifices! I want you to be merciful

Hosea 6:6

3. I'M GOING TO NEED MORE MERCY IN THE FUTURE.

You must show mercy to others, or God will not show mercy to you... But the person who shows mercy can stand without fear at the judgment.

James 2:13 (NCV)

4. SHOWING MERCY BRINGS OR CAUSES HAPPINESS.

If you want to be happy, be kind to those in need; it is a sin to despise anyone.

Proverbs 14:21 (GNT)

A merciful person helps himself, but a cruel person hurts himself.

Proverbs 11:17 (GW)

Your own soul is nourished when you show mercy.

Proverbs 11:17 (TLB)

HOW DO I BE MERCIFUL?

1. BE PATIENT WITH PEOPLE'S QUIRKS.

Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

Ephesians 4:2 (TLB)

The man who makes no allowances for others will find none made for him.

James 2:13 (PHILLIPS)

The wisdom that comes from heaven is pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. Wisdom is full of mercy.

James 3:17 (NLT)

2. HELP ANYONE HURTING AROUND ME.

Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it.

Proverbs 3:27 (GNT)

[When you do] acts of mercy, show mercy with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:8 (ASV)

If you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.

Romans 12:8 (The Message)

3. GIVE PEOPLE A SECOND CHANCE.

Don't get bitter or angry or use harsh words that hurt each other. Don't yell at one another or curse or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.

Ephesians 4:31-32

4. DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HURT ME.

Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:35-36 (NIV)

5. BE KIND TO THOSE WHO OFFEND ME.

Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief... I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:13,16

Show mercy to those who have doubts. Save others by snatching them from the fire. Show mercy to them, while being careful that you aren't contaminated by their sins.

Jude 1:22-23 (GW/NLT)

6. BUILD BRIDGES OF LOVE TO THE UNPOPULAR.

Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to be his dinner guests, along with tax collectors and many other notorious sinners. The Pharisees were indignant. 'Why does your teacher eat with such scum?' they asked the disciples. When he heard this, Jesus replied, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor-sick people do. Go learn the meaning of the Scripture, "I want you to be merciful; I don't want your sacrifices! For I have come to call sinners, not those who think they are already good enough."

Matthew 9:10-13 (NLT)

7. VALUE RELATIONSHIPS OVER RULES.

Another time Jesus was walking through some grain fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began to pick some grain and eat it. Some Pharisees saw this and protested, 'Your disciples are breaking God's law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath! But Jesus said, Haven't you ever read what King David did when he and his soldiers were hungry? He went into the house of God, and they ate the holy bread reserved for the priests?... You would not have judged these innocent men if you knew the real meaning of the Scripture, "I want you to be merciful. I don't want your sacrifices! For I am the Lord of the Sabbath!"

Matthew 12:1-8 (NLT)