



KINGDOM CHARACTER

“BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL”

MATTHEW 5:7

- I. CONTEXT: JESUS’ ONGOING CONFRONTATION WITH JUDAISM’S HEARTLESS RELIGION...
- A. The main battle was over man-made merciless _____ (Mt. 15:6)
 - 1. Mocking Jesus’ love for the needy, especially on the Sabbath
 - 2. Mean spirited even towards their parents (Mt. 15:1-9), violating God’s law
 - B. The message of John the Baptist confronted their _____ religious pride
 - 1. Cf. Mt. 3:7-12
 - 2. As God withholds His mercy from the merciless (Amos 5:18-24)
 - C. The message of Jesus: character is clearly revealed through conduct (Mt. 7:15-20)
 - 1. Beliefs determine behavior...attitudes/actions...
 - 2. Holy roots...holy fruits (Ps. 1; Ro. 11:16)
 - a. _____, mourning, meekness, hungering for righteousness...
 - b. These attitudes create merciful actions that flow from God’s mercy...
 - c. Christian attitudes control and create _____ actions (2 Cor. 5:14)
- II. CONTENT: MEASURING MERCY...COMPARING SCRIPTURE WITH SCRIPTURE (I COR. 2:13)
- A. The spiritual significance of mercy... the very nature of Christ’s love (Lam. 3:21-23)
 - 1. Goes against the grain of _____ humanity (Micah 6:8)
 - 2. Romans were merciless people... “patria potestas” ...power of the father
 - a. Child born...thumb up...lived...thumb down...died
 - b. Dislike slave...killed and buried him
 - c. Tired of wife...killed her as accepted norm
 - 3. Jews were merciless to Christ, in light of His loving mercy to them (Lk. 7:47)
 - a. Conspiring with Rome, people they hated, for crucifixion (Prov. 15:31)
 - b. Choosing Barabbas over Jesus, validating their sin sick souls
 - c. Confronting Him for eating with tax collectors and _____ (Mk. 2:16)
 - i. Hating His love for the “unlovely”: prostitutes, adulterers, the common people (Jn. 9)
 - ii. Ignoring that He was a merciful and faithful Priest (Heb. 2:17)
 - 4. Jesus’ mercy far exceeded mere compassion and sympathy...as mercy is meeting needs, not just “feeling” for people in need.
 - a. As He touched the lepers...reaching out His holy hand of _____ (Mt. 8:3)

- b. As He forgave the woman caught in adultery (Jn. 8:11)
 - c. As He _____ people's souls through merciful grace (Tit. 3:5)
 - i. As God's holy mercy is always behind forgiveness (Eph. 2:4-9)
 - ii. Cf. Ps. 130:1-7; Dan. 9:9
 - d. And yet mercy is far bigger than forgiving... (Neh. 9:19)
 - i. Gen. 32:10
 - ii. Ps. 119:64
5. Comparing mercy and grace...
- a. Mercy: not giving us what we do deserve...
 - b. Grace: giving us what we _____ deserve...
 - i. Mercy says "no hell"... grace says "heaven"
 - ii. Mercy says "I pity you"... grace says "I forgive you"...
 - c. The Good Samaritan...(Lk. 10)
 - i. Mercy relieves the suffering religion ignored
 - ii. Grace rents him a room out of _____ love...
 - iii. As mercy takes away the pain, and grace grants a better set of conditions (cf. The Word of grace – Acts 20:32, builds us up)
6. BUT... don't confuse mercy with careless sentiment that _____ sin...(Ps. 85:10)
- a. As mercy took Jesus to the cross demanding accountability (Lk. 12:48)
 - b. King Saul spared King Agag, violating God's holy Word (I Sam. 15)
 - c. David showed counterfeit mercy to Absalom, sowing seeds of rebellion
 - i. When Absalom murdered Amnon
 - ii. 2 Sam. 13
 - d. God demands merciless judgment on _____ disobedience (Heb. 10:26-7)
 - i. Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11)
 - ii. Titus 70 AD (1 Pet. 4:17)
7. Examples... "the righteous show mercy" – Ps. 37:21
- a. Abraham delivered Lot from enemies after he had wronged Abraham
 - b. Joseph _____ and met the needs of his brothers (Gen. 50:20)
 - c. Moses prayed for Miriam's leprosy after she rebelled against him (Nu. 12)
 - d. Twice David spared Saul's life (I Sam. 24; 26)
 - e. Stephen (Acts 7:60)
8. Applications...
- a. "The merciful man doeth good to his own soul" (Prov. 11:17)
 - b. Godless people are merciless (Ro. 1:31)
 - c. Mercy never...
 - i. Holds a _____ of bitterness (Luke 7:47)
 - ii. Retaliates (the cross)

- iii. Takes vengeance (Ro. 12:19-21)
- iv. Flaunts someone's weaknesses
- v. Recites old "forgiven" sins
- vi. Is careless in _____ or Bible reading (Heb. 2:1)
- vii. Gives up on a lost soul (2 Tim. 2:25)
- viii. Quits preaching the true gospel (2Tim.4:2; 2Cor.11:3-4)

B. The Source of mercy...Almighty God...flowing from a _____ throne (Heb. 4:16)

- 1. Ps. 103:11-12
- 2. Luke 6:36-37
- 3. Heb. 2:17-18

C. The summation of mercy's blessings, comparing spiritual things with spiritual (I Cor. 2:13)

- 1. Receiving mercy (v7b)...from a loyal merciful Father, as the root meaning of merciful is loyal unconditional love (hesed = Hebrew word); NT equivalent is agape (charity) – I Peter 4:8
- 2. God holds you upright in faith for being loyal in loving mercies – 2 Sam. 22:26
- 3. _____ in the day of judgment (Jas. 2:13)
- 4. The summation of Jesus' love (Jn. 13:34-35)
- 5. God's merciful love for obstinate Israel (Ro. 9: 15-23)