

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

How do you define mercy?

In light of the fact that Samaritans and Jews vehemently disliked each other - read the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and list as many acts of mercy as you can find in this parable.

In Luke 10:37 Jesus told the expert in the law to "Go and do likewise". Summarize what you think Jesus was teaching us to do based on this story.

Jesus also taught on the connection between mercy and forgiveness as recorded in Matthew 18:21-35 in the parable of the Unmerciful Servant. (note: 10,000 talents was approximately 200 million dollars in today's terms and 100 denarii was minimum wage for 100 days work). What is the result of not forgiving and or not being merciful?

Explain the importance of each of the following verses as they pertain to mercy:

James 2:13

James 3:17

James 5:11

Titus 3:4-7

1 Peter 1:3

Micah 6:8

Hebrews 2:17

We have all heard the stories of Simon Peter denying that he knew Jesus and that of Thomas who doubted Jesus' resurrection. Read the "ending" of their stories and record how Jesus demonstrated mercy.

John 20:24-28

John 21:15-19

Pick one of the following definitions of mercy that you feel best describes this beatitude:

1. Mercy – Withholding harsh treatment one has a right to inflict by giving loving kindness and compassion to the one who offends.
2. Mercy – The kind and forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly.
3. Mercy – Love that responds to human need in an unexpected and unmerited way.
4. Mercy – The tenderness of heart and compassion that inspires acts for the good of others.
5. Mercy – The selfless action of showing forgiveness and compassion to those in need.

Can you think of another person who has shown you mercy or a time when you showed mercy?