



# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

DOXA CHURCH

## FLOURISHING ARE THE MERCIFUL

*“Blessed [Flourishing] are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.”*  
Matthew 5:7

### OVERVIEW

Once again, we see Jesus building upon and speaking to what came before in his sermon. He just said, “Blessed or Flourishing are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be satisfied.” To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to long for ourselves, our relationships and the world to be as it ought to be - as God wants it to be. Considering that, this next statement is aptly placed.

If we look at how broken we are, our relationships are, or the world is, we may be prone to become very angry. Anger in itself is not wrong, but what we do in our anger can be. Some are prone to become bitter, resentful or even hateful in their anger. Consider how you respond when you see, hear or read about injustice. How do you respond to others when things are not right between you? How do you respond to yourself when you consider how you have failed?

Do you respond with mercy or judgment? Forgiveness or condemnation. Love or hate?

To respond with mercy is to be compassionate and forgiving, choosing not to treat others or even yourself as we might justly deserve.

To be clear, Jesus is not saying if you show mercy to others then you also will be shown mercy. He’s not saying you need to do it first before God does it to you. He doesn’t wait for us to be merciful. He is merciful to us because we need mercy. He is the God of all mercy. Jesus is saying blessed or flourishing are the mercy-full or the mercy-filled.

Throughout Jesus’ ministry he continued to say that he did not come for the religiously right people. He came for those who were sinners and knew it. He came for those who knew they needed mercy. All who know they are in need of mercy and look to God who is rich in mercy will receive it. Jesus came not only to live the

righteous life we do not - to satisfy our hunger and thirst for righteousness - he also came to die on the cross for our sin. At the cross justice and mercy kissed. At the cross, we see God's anger at sin and his justice satisfied for sin as Jesus paid for it. If you ever wonder what God thinks of sin, done by you or done to you, look to the cross. And, at the same time we see God's love and mercy for sinners through Jesus giving his life for us. At the cross we see how much God loves sinners.

If you have come to see what you justly deserve for your sin and have received, by faith in Jesus, God's mercy for your sin, you will be mercy-full. You will be full of mercy from God for yourself and for others around you. God pours out his mercy on us so that we can both receive it and share it with others.

## DISCUSS

1. How do you tend to respond to a world gone wild, relationships gone bad or your own brokenness?
2. Why do we and others have such a hard time extending mercy to others?
3. Looking to the cross enables us to see that God takes seriously our sin and the sin of others. He is a just God. And yet at the same time, we see how merciful he is to us and others. He is a God of mercy. How should the cross affect our response to injustice and sin in ourselves and with others around us?

## NURTURE

1. Do you find yourself gravitating more toward justice or mercy? Why?
2. Where are you presently in need of mercy? Where do you need to be mercy-filled by God?
3. How might God's mercy be good news to you or your situation right now?

## ACT

1. What steps do you believe God is asking you to take in light of what you are learning or hearing?
2. How might we together grow in showing mercy to one another?
3. How can we intentionally show mercy to those who don't yet know Jesus?
4. Take some time either quietly or out loud if you are comfortable to pray these two prayers:

- Identify an area where you need God to be merciful to you and pray: “Lord, have mercy on me for...”
- Identify a person or situation where you need God’s mercy to be expressed through you and pray: “Lord, show mercy through me to...”