

Grace Community LIFE Groups
(Based on Sermon #10)
Matthew 5:7

1. What is your response to the “CONSIDER THIS” section of the notes?

CONSIDER THIS: Are you merciful? Is there someone from whom you are withholding mercy, someone you will not forgive? If so, then you should be afraid. Be very afraid, because here is Jesus’ message about His Kingdom: The unmerciful will be left on the outside looking in.

2. The word *blessed* which is central to the Beatitudes can be translated “happy”, but it means far more than a temporary emotional experience. What is the deeper meaning of blessed/happy?
3. Read the story of the unmerciful servant in Matthew 18:22-35. Jesus used an extreme example to make His point. What is the central point(s) to the story?
4. What words would you use to describe God’s forgiveness? Would those same words describe how you forgive others?
5. In Matthew 5:43-48 Jesus says there is nothing noble about loving the people who love you. The hard part is loving someone who is hateful toward you. The real measure of our willingness to forgive is the test of forgiving someone who has **deeply** hurt us and perhaps is not even sorry. Have you ever faced that kind of challenge?
6. Jesus was **not** teaching salvation by works. He was **not** saying “You will be forgiven for your sin as a reward for your willingness to forgive others” (that would make salvation something earned rather than a gift). But how would you explain the relationship of our being merciful to others with receiving mercy from God in Matthew 5:7?
7. Here is a big question. Is it appropriate to forgive someone who has not repented, apologized or sought your forgiveness? Read Ephesians 4:32. Many Christian teachers say that forgiveness follows repentance. I disagree (although I understand what they mean). I would say reconciliation/restoration cannot take place until there is an apology/repentance, but we give forgiveness no matter what. To say, “I am ready and willing to forgive this person the very moment he asks” falls short of what God wants us to do. Do you agree or disagree with my view (and I will forgive you if you disagree with me). 😊

Regarding the above question, I agree that for salvation from God forgiveness comes after repentance. But if I sin after becoming a Christian does God withhold forgiveness until I confess?