

## **Call to Worship**

*"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy." (Psalm 103:1-4)*

## **Matthew 5:7**

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*

## **Introduction and Review of the Beatitudes**

→ Four reminders of the importance of the Beatitudes:

- These are for ALL Christians;
- These are to be the characteristics of all Christians (character before conduct);
- None of these Come Naturally;
- The point us to Jesus;

→ Each Beatitude deals with the condition of our heart; with each one becoming more humbling and progressively more difficult;

## **The Implication of Mercy**

→ What doesn't "being merciful" mean?

- Easy-going or passive;

→ What does it mean to be merciful?

- Godliness in two understandings:

(1) Grace;

(2) Repentance;

• Demonstrating compassion AND a desire to relieve others of their suffering; mercy involves action;

→ If we lack mercy, we lack an understanding of the grace of God and forgiveness;

## **The Application of Mercy (Two Areas)**

### **1. Merciful toward the offences of others**

→ If we have an understanding of mercy, there should be no pride left in us; we should not be vindictive; and not insisting upon our rights;

→ Our understanding of mercy comes from both the sorrow and compassion we have in our hearts because of the mercy that has been shown to us;

→ Forgiveness is a result of repentance;

- *"If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." (Psalm 66:18)*

### **2. Merciful in our reproof of others**

→ Filling one another with the truths of the gospel;

→ By not strengthening one another with the Word, are you being merciful or prideful?

- *"For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ." (2 Corinthians 2:17)*

### **The Unmerciful Man**

- We know that mercy is not natural for us thus it is a working of the Holy Spirit in us;
- For the one who lacks mercy, he lacks an understanding of grace and repentance;
- To lack mercy is to lack a love for Christ---
  - *“...having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.” (2 Timothy 3:5)*
- The merciful are blessed because they have already received mercy in Christ;

### **Benediction**