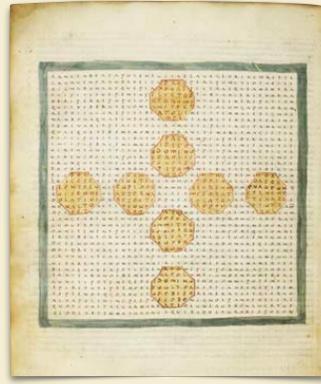


# Blessed

Matthew 5:1-12 & Luke 6:17-26

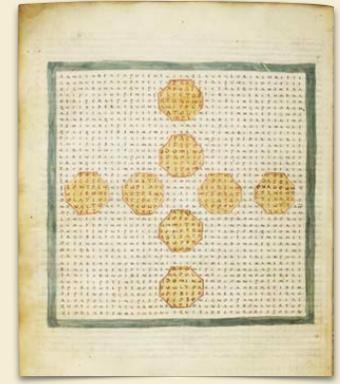


A Spring Sermon Series on the Beatitudes

“Lord, have mercy!”

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Matthew 5:7).

June 1, 2025  
Pastor Tyler Williams  
Greenfield Community Church



## What is Mercy?

Words relating to mercy are built on the Greek root *eleo-* (ελεο-).

Merciful  
(*eleemon*  
ελεημων,  
2x)

Show mercy  
or compassion  
(*eleeo* ελεεω,  
28x)

Mercy, pity,  
compassion  
(ελεος *eleos*,  
27x)

Almsgiving,  
Acts of mercy  
(*eleemosyne*  
ελεημοσυνη,  
13x)

## The Unmerciful Servant (Matt 18:21-35)

A story about a servant who owed his master an incredible debt. When unable to pay, the master ordered him to be sold into slavery. At that point, the servant threw himself on the mercy of his master, who then not only stayed the sale, *but entirely cancelled his debt*. The servant proceeded to collect a smaller debt from a fellow servant. When the servant could not pay, he threw himself of the mercy of the other servant, but the servant refused and had him jailed.

## The Unmerciful Servant (Matt 18:21-35)

“You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. *Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?*” (18:32-33).

- Reveals the connection between *mercy & forgiveness* (18:21-22; 18:35)
- And the expectation that disciples will show the same mercy that they've been shown to others.

## The Unmerciful Servant (Matt 18:21-35)

### *Mercy as Forgiveness*

- God's mercy as slowness to anger, graciousness, and forgiveness (Exod 33:19, 34:6; Deut 4:31; 2Chron 30:9; Neh 9:17, 31; Ps 51:1).
- God's mercy toward us demonstrated in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour (Eph 2:4-8; Rom 11:30-32; 1Peter 1:3).
- Grace is receiving something good we do not deserve, whereas mercy is being spared from bad consequences we do deserve.

## The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

An expert in the Torah came to Jesus and asked Jesus what must he do to inherit eternal life. In the ensuing discussion it is agreed that one must “love God and love neighbour.”

In order to justify himself, the man asked Jesus, “who is my neighbour?”

Jesus tells the story of a man who was beaten, robbed, and left for dead by the side of the road.

Three people come upon him – a priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan – but only the Samaritan helped the person in need.

## The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

At the end of the story, Jesus asked, “Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

He answered, ‘*The one who showed him mercy.*’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise’” (10:36-37).

- Reveals the connection between mercy & concern and care for those in need (one's neighbour = anyone you come across who is in need).

## The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

### *Mercy as concern & assistance for the poor*

- In the OT mercy is equated with providing material assistance to the poor and needy (LXX Prov 14:21 – “He who dishonours the needy sins, but one who has mercy on the poor is blessed”).
- The Greek word for “almsgiving” (*eleemosyne* ελεημοσυνη) is from the same root as “mercy” = acts of mercy, exercise of benevolent goodwill, *charitable giving* (see Matt 6:2-6; Luke 11:41; 12:33; Acts 3:2-3; cf. Matt 25:31-46).

## What is Mercy?

The compassionate disposition to forgive someone or to offer practical aid, assistance, or help to someone in need.

Closely connected are such concepts as grace, goodness, love, loving-kindness, compassion, and patience.

## What is Mercy?

### *Both a disposition/feeling/emotion and an action.*

- “The servant’s master *took pity on him...*” (Matt 18:27); “When the Samaritan saw him, *he took pity on him*” (Luke 10:33).
- “For unless mercy softens the soul, a person cannot arrive at healing the ills of their neighbour, since mercy is defined as the opposite of cruelty” (Gregory of Nyssa, AD 335-395).

## The Promise: Receiving Mercy

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

There is balance between the blessing and the promise: *give mercy and you will receive mercy.*

- When and from whom?
- Most understand the mercy is from God, primarily in the next life when God’s kingdom comes in its fullness.

## The Promise: Receiving Mercy

Does this beatitude place a limit on God's mercy?

"Perhaps the way out of this quandary is to play out the equation of mercy to its logical end — **God shows mercy to the undeserving**. In other words, even when we fail to show mercy to one another, we can hope that God's mercy exceeds our mercilessness, and pardons even that" (Rebekah Eklund, *The Beatitudes through the Ages*, 193).

## Invitation

The invitation is to enter into these beatitudes... as gifts of God's Spirit. Notice how they follow a sort of progression... and ***the fifth marks shift in focus towards loving others***.

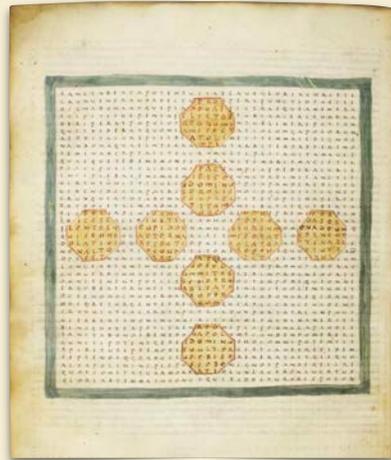
## Structure

### Stanza 1: Love God (5:3-6)

- Poor in spirit (present tense)
- Mourn; meek; hunger and thirst for righteousness (future tense).

### Stanza 2: Love Others (5:7-10)

- Merciful; pure in heart; peacemakers (future tense).
- Persecuted (present tense).



## Invitation

The invitation is to enter into these beatitudes... they follow a sort of progression... and ***the fifth marks shift in focus towards loving others***.

As God shapes and forms us into the sort of people who acknowledge our poverty of spirit, grieve our sin, learn to humbly yield to God and others, and hunger and thirst after righteousness and justice — then we will be equipped to turn to others and dispense the grace and mercy we have received.

## Invitation

"Mercy is a hard virtue, even if it sounds like a soft quality. We want mercy for ourselves but resist extending it to others. We are eager to judge things we know little about or see from only one side. We tend to see ourselves in a good light. After all, we are more or less decent people with relatively good intentions. At least we aren't mass murderers or drug dealers. But what Christ calls us to become — *through his mercy and grace* — is people living the mercy of God" (Jim Forest, *The Ladder of the Beatitudes*, 85).