

The Economy of Mercy

Big Idea: The dichotomy of mercy is simple... it's much easier to receive than give. However, there are good reasons to be merciful: practical reasons, "mercenary" reasons, and evangelical reasons.

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

Context: Looking ahead to Matthew 5:13-15, we see the grand design of the Beatitudes. Jesus is setting the framework for evangelism.

NB. Reading the following subtitles won't tell the entire story. Please make sure to couple the following text with the sermon itself. ☺

1. Mercy serves a purpose. (It is logical.)

Mercy alludes to a weakness aided by a strength. The Darwinian principle whereby "only the strong survive" is short-sighted.

- Strength and weakness are circumstantial.
- A person may be in a position of strength in one situation, followed by a position of weakness in another.

Relationship in community requires the exchange of one strength for another.

- Demonstrating mercy builds relationship
- Relationship breeds synergy.

2. What goes around comes around. (It is rewarded.)

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

Jesus tells us – in no uncertain terms – that the merciful ARE blessed.

- There is an innate happiness & blessing in showing mercy.
- Furthermore, the merciful are promised that they will be shown mercy.
- To be clear, the promise isn't that the mercy will come from the recipient of *your* mercy.
- As with all of God's Promises, we can bank on it – whether in the temporal or eternal.

It will be "rewarded" whether you're merciful or not.

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. (Matthew 18:23)

➤ **Don't miss this!** We were shown mercy long before we ever had the opportunity to show mercy! Despite our broken nature, God had mercy on us and sent His Son to save us.

3. Mercy is a means to an end. (It is attractive.)

Further into Matthew 5, (verses 13-15), Jesus' not-so-hidden-agenda is more fully revealed.

- Mercy is not only logical and rewarded, but it is attractive
- Aides in our quest to be salt and light

So what? Ultimately, we are called to love God first, and love others as we love ourselves. The Church should be famous for its love. When we allow Christ to penetrate our "human world" and show us the world through His eyes, opportunity and motivation for mercy will be ubiquitous.

Economy Of Mercy - Switchfoot

There's just two ways to lose yourself in this life
And neither way is safe
In my dreams I see visions of the future
But today we have today
And where will I find You?

In the economy of mercy
I am a poor and begging man
In the currency of Grace
Is where my song begins
In the colors of Your goodness
In the scars that mark your skin
In the currency of Grace
Is where my song begins

These carbon shells
These fragile dusty frames
House canvases of souls
We are bruised and broken masterpieces
But we did not paint ourselves
And where will I find You?

Where was I when the world was made?
Where was I?

I'm lost without You here
Yes, I'm lost without You near me
I'm lost without You here
You knew my name when the world was made