

THE FORGOTTEN JESUS PODCAST

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Season 7, Episode 12

Mercy for the Merciful

Matthew 5:7; Galatians 6:7-10; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15

Opening Thought

The Beatitudes shift in Matthew 5:7 from our relationship with God (vv. 3–6) to our relationship with others (vv. 7–10). Jesus calls His followers to live as merciful people—those who forgive, release, and extend compassion to others because they have first received God’s mercy. Mercy is not weakness, nor is it ignoring justice—it is the Christlike choice to withhold punishment and extend kindness when it isn’t deserved.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Jesus’ command to be merciful (Matt. 5:7) connect to His own example of mercy?

2. What's the difference between grace and mercy? Why is it important to distinguish the two?
 3. Why is extending mercy such an important marker of being a child of God?
 4. What is the opposite of mercy? How does a "law-only" mindset distort the gospel?
 5. In what ways does the Bible's teaching on sowing and reaping differ from the concept of karma?
 6. How does Galatians 6:7-10 show both a warning and an encouragement about the choices we make?
 7. How do Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 remind us that our works will be tested?
 8. What makes it so difficult to extend mercy to others—especially when we've been wronged?
 9. How does receiving God's mercy change the way we respond to others?
 10. Why do you think Jesus attached a promise—"for they will be shown mercy"—to this Beatitude?
-

Application Questions (*Living It Out*):

1. When was the last time you experienced undeserved mercy from someone else? How did it impact you?
2. Who in your life right now is hardest to extend mercy to? What keeps you from showing it?
3. What would change in your relationships if you chose mercy over judgment this week?
4. How do you usually respond when wronged—by seeking justice, withholding forgiveness, or offering mercy?
5. How can you practice both justice and mercy in a Christlike way?
6. Where might God be calling you to "sow to the Spirit" instead of "sowing to the flesh"?

7. In what ways can your small group help one another grow in mercy?
 8. What specific act of mercy can you show to a family member, coworker, or friend this week?
 9. How do you need to remind yourself daily of the mercy you've received in Christ?
 10. If God examined your "works" today (1 Cor. 3:12-15), what do you think would endure, and what might burn away?
-

Prayer Prompt

Thank God for the mercy He has shown us through Jesus—mercy that withholds judgment we deserve and gives us forgiveness and new life instead. Pray that God would soften your heart toward those who are difficult to love, and that your group would be marked by mercy in word and action. Ask the Spirit to help you sow to eternal things, showing mercy as an overflow of the mercy you've received.

Additional Resources for Going Deeper

- **Scripture Memory**
 - Matthew 5:7, Galatians 6:7-10, James 2:13, Micah 6:8
- **Books & Commentaries**
 - *The Forgotten Jesus* by Robby Gallaty
 - *The Sermon on the Mount: A Verse-by-Verse Look at the Greatest Teachings of Jesus* by R.T. Kendall
 - *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller (powerful study on grace and mercy)
- **Passages for Further Study**
 - Matthew 18:21-35 – The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

- Titus 3:4-7 – God saved us through His mercy
 - Luke 6:36 – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful”
 - James 2:12-13 – “Mercy triumphs over judgment”
-