

Living the Beatitudes (Part 6) “Blessed are the Merciful...”

Matthew 5:7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

- **Unique feature in this Beatitude as the reward is the same as the Kingdom quality.**

Luke 6:36-38

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, *and* running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”

In this Fifth Beatitude We Learn Five Spiritual Laws of the Kingdom:

- 1. There is a deep connection; a spiritually symbiotic exchange between a person’s relationship with God and with others.**

1 John 4:20

If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

- 2. We reap what we sow.**

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

- 3. There are several different and rich expressions of mercy: goodness, love, benevolence, generosity, hospitality, patience, and forgiveness.**

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Goodness

Love

Benevolence

Generosity

Hospitality

Patience

Forgiveness

4. Only Mercy (Forgiveness) can stop and reverse the effects of evil and its spread.

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.

“Forgiveness is difficult, sometime heroic, but it is indispensable. Without forgiveness, evil multiplies ceaselessly. Only the courage to forgive puts an end to evil’s growth.”

Jacques Philippe

The Eight Doors of the Kingdom: Meditation on the Beatitudes

Matthew 18:21-34

²¹Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” ²²Jesus *said to him, “**I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.**”

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ ²⁷And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him*, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began* to plead with him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ ³⁰But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. ³¹So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. ³²Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. ³⁵**My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”**

- Mercy is the currency of the Kingdom.

5. God Alone is the Source of All Mercy

Luke 23:34 Jesus was saying, “**Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”**