WEEK #5: Happy Are the Merciful

> *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*
> *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*
> *Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.*
> *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*
> **Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**
> *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*
> *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*
> *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*
> *You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me."*
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> Matthew 5:3-11 (CSB)

> *...Mercy triumphs over judgment.*
>
> James 2:13 (NIV)

> *..."Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy!"... .*
>
> Exodus 34:6 (NLT)

> *"A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.*
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> *"Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'*
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> *"Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.*
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> *The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy."*
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> *Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."*
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> Luke 10:30-37 (NLT)

CSB (Christian Standard Bible) NIV (New International Version) NLT (New Living Translation)

Three truths about mercy according to Jesus:

1. Mercy isn't afraid to _____.

2. Mercy isn't afraid to _____.

3. Mercy _____.

Discussion Questions:

1. Are mercy and forgiveness easy or difficult for you to extend? Are there particular situations in which you find it difficult to extend mercy to someone?
2. James 2:13 says that "mercy triumphs over judgment". What does that mean and how could that apply in your own life?
3. When you think of extending mercy, is there someone in your life that comes to mind? How could you take a first step in extending mercy to that person?

Recommended Ressources:

- *The Good Life: What Jesus Teaches about Finding True Happiness*, by Dr. Derwin L. Gray
- *Crazy Happy: Nine Surprising Ways to Live the Truly Beautiful Life*, by Daniel Fusco
- *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy*, by Donald B. Kraybill, Steven M. Nolt, and David L. Weaver-Zercher
- *The Fading of Forgiveness*, by Timothy Keller (https://www.cardus.ca/comment/article/the-fading-of-forgiveness/)

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