



A SERVE DEVOTIONAL

*For the Lord is good
and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues
through all generations.*

Psalm 100:5

Text:

Matthew 5:7

*"Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy.*

Summary:

Blessed are the merciful ... With this beatitude and the next ones, Jesus moves from talking about internal characteristics of believers and begins talking about the kind of actions that should characterize the way we live out our faith. First up: compassion, not just in thought but in deed, moving toward the brokenness of our world (racism, injustice, poverty, sickness, and sin itself), in order to offer comfort and relief. Jesus gives no specifics here about how, where or to whom, he simply says his people are to move toward pain as beacons of the light and hope of God.

Personal Quiet Time:

In the Bible, God's nature is described as merciful and compassionate; it's mentioned many times in various forms. As it says in Psalm 86:15, "But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. Turn to me and have mercy on me; grant your strength to your servant and save the son of your maidservant." And in Deuteronomy 4:31, "For the LORD your God is a merciful God; He will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which He confirmed to them by oath." In 2 Samuel 24:14, David says: "Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for His mercy is great." God does not give us what we deserve, but instead shows us mercy over and over again. That does not take away our responsibility but gives us an opportunity to repent and be saved.

As we are undeserving recipients of God's great mercy, we should be so willing ourselves to joyfully show unreserved mercy and compassion towards others. Will we open wide our hearts to love and help others?

Deuteronomy 10:12 & 13 And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

Zechariah 7: 9 This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.

Micah 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Reflection Questions:

Reread Matthew 5:7, and spend time reflecting on these questions:

- What does this verse reveal about who God is?
- What are you hearing about who you are?
- How does this impact the way you live into God's story today?

Prayer

Dear Lord, You have shown us what love and compassion are. You have shown us great mercy. Out of your great grace, you have come down to save us. You, God, are with us, you are mighty to save us. You quiet us with your love and you rejoice over us with singing. (Zephaniah 3:17). And we have done nothing to deserve this great love. Thank you! And now, let us show our gratitude and extend that same mercy you have shown us to those around us. Specifically as we have the opportunity through SERVE@Home. Let us joyfully serve with love in the places you have called us. In Jesus name, Amen.