

## Deep Happiness – Mercy – Week 5 – Pastor Rob 5-29-22

1. How would you define Mercy?
2. Do you consider yourself a merciful person?

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

Grace is getting something good that we don't deserve and mercy is not getting something bad that we do deserve. Pastor Rob defined Mercy as Relational Generosity.

3. What are your thoughts about these definitions or mercy?

### **Two ways that mercy plays out**

#### **I - Compassion** – Caring for others in need

*Luke 10:30-37 - <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he encountered robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> And by coincidence a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan who was on a journey came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, <sup>34</sup> and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own animal, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.' <sup>36</sup> Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" <sup>37</sup> And he said, "The one who showed compassion to him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."*

4. Are you a naturally a compassionate person?
5. How could you choose to show compassion to others more?
6. Is there an area where you see suffering in the world where you could help?
7. Why does God want us to care for others?

**II - Forgiveness** – Specifically doing good to someone who deserves bad. Not holding someone's wrong against them.

*Matthew 6:12 - And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*Matthew 6:14-15 - For if you forgive other people for their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive other people, then your Father will not forgive your offenses.*

*Matthew 18:23-35 – Parable of the unmerciful servant*

8. Why do you think that God ties us receiving mercy (forgiveness) to us giving mercy (forgiveness)?
9. Do you think that unforgiveness is an unforgivable sin?
10. Do you struggle to forgive those who have harmed you?
11. When have you received mercy in life?
12. In the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matt 18:23-35) he was forgiven a great debt but was unwilling to forgive someone else a little debt. How do you feel about this unmerciful servant?
13. How big of a debt have you been forgiven?
14. How important are the first four beatitudes (see below) to us being able to show mercy through compassion and forgiving?

Matthew 5:3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit (Realizing I really, really, really need God)

Matthew 5:4 - Blessed are those who mourn (Agreeing with God about my sin)

Matthew 5:5 - Blessed are the meek (Submit to God)

Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness.

15. Can you show mercy without first understanding your need for God, mourning your sin, becoming humble and meek, and hunger and thirsting for righteousness?
16. How are the beatitudes connected?
17. Who do you need to forgive?
18. Who can you show compassion to this week?