



# BUILT to Last

"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. Matthew 7:24(MSG)

- The Word of God is **reliable**.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Matthew 24:35 (NIV)

The Words of God are **supported** by the power of God.

**The Definition is:**

"Blessed" - (1) A different attitude because of God's favor or (2) A changed mindset that comes from God's blessings.

**Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.** Matthew 5:6 (ESV)

**Definitions of mercy:**

Grace is getting what we **don't** deserve.

Mercy is **not** getting what we **do** deserve.

Loving those that don't **deserve** it.

Helping those that can't **help** themselves.

- How you treat others **matters**.

**Ways we approach this beatitude:**

- You **get** what you **give**.

Our motivation is: Mercy is something I **have to do**.

- What we **receive** from God, we **give** to others.

Our motivation is: I want to be merciful, because **God** is **merciful** to me.

We can only **give** what we have **received**.

As Christ-followers, mercy becomes part of our spiritual **DNA**.

**Our DNA of mercy:**

- Our heavenly Father is **merciful**.

For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. John 8:44 (NLT)

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36 (NIV)

For the Lord your God is a merciful God... Deuteronomy 4:31 (ESV)

- God has **modeled** mercy for us.

The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. Psalm 145:9 (ESV)

God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved.

Ephesians 2 :4-5 (GNT)

..he (God) saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but **because of his mercy**. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 (NLT)

Matthew 18:21-35

- God shows us that mercy is a **lifestyle**.

God has told you what is good and **what He requires from you**: Do what is right with others, **to love being merciful to others**, and live humbly in fellowship with God. Micah 6:8 (TEV)

I don't want your sacrifices! I want you to be merciful! Hosea 6:6 (NIV)

- Our **future** depends on God's mercy.

There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you. James 2:13 (NLT)

We don't have to live in **fear** when we live in mercy.

**How to show mercy:**

- Be patient with people's **quirks**.

Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Ephesians 4:2 (TLB) James 3:17 (NLT)

- Help people that are **hurting**.

"Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it." Proverbs 3:27 (TEV)

- Give people a **second** chance.

"Don't get bitter or angry or use harsh words that hurt each other. Don't yell at one another or curse or ever be rude. **Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.**" Ephesians 4:31-32 (CEV)

- Do good to those who **hurt** me.

Luke 6:35-36 (NIV)

- Be kind to those who **offend** me.

(Paul) "Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief... I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for others who'd believe on him and receive eternal life." 1 Timothy 1:13,16 Jude 1:22-23 (NLT).

**Blessed are those whose self-centered lives have been crushed by the mercy of God, and as a result, pour out mercy to others.** Dave's Translation



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

**Questions for Connection Groups:**

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Discuss why this is an important time for the church to show mercy to the world. What does that look like?
- In your own words how would you define mercy? How does mercy provide strength for your life?
- Talk through the points under the sub-heading - "Our DNA of mercy". What does it mean to you the mercy is in your spiritual DNA?
- How does experiencing God's mercy free us to give mercy to others?
- How do you personally see God's mercy displayed in our world and in your life?
- What does mercy as a lifestyle look like? Can you give an example of someone in scriptures with a lifestyle of mercy? Explain.
- How does our future depend on God's mercy? Read James 2:13; does that remove the fear of judgement when you stand before God?
- Talk through the points - "How to show mercy". Which of these is most difficult for you to give to others?
- Read and talk about "Dave's Translation" (at the end of the notes)

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