

Flourishing are the Merciful (Matt 5:7)
GCC, morning worship, 5/29/22

I. What is mercy?

Compassion for someone in need and a corresponding action to meet that need

- A. Two parts to mercy:
 - 1. an emotional or visceral element. You feel pity
 - 2. that emotion moves you to action
- B. Illegitimate or 'incomplete' mercy (Jas 2:15–17)

II. God as the Archetype of Mercy

- A. God as Merciful and Compassionate (Pss 85:15, 102:8, 110:4, 111:4, 144:8)
- B. Jeremiah's Recognition of the Mercy of God (Lam 3:14–23)
- C. The Greatest act of mercy is Jesus entering into our suffering literally by taking our suffering for us (Heb 2:17–18)
- D. Our problem is NOT a shortage or lack of mercy; it is that we don't feel our need of mercy

III. Mercy and Meeting Physical Needs

Feeling compassion on someone and seeking to ameliorate their physical misery

- A. Unbiblical and Unhealthy Dichotomies
- B. Mercy feels compassion for someone in need and seeks to meet that need in so far as they are able (Gal 6:10)

IV. Mercy and Meeting Spiritual Needs

Feeling compassion on someone and seeking to ameliorate their spiritual misery

- A. Two ways to act on compassion and meet people's spiritual needs
 - 1. We forgive people
 - 2. We share the gospel and call to repentance
- B. The Redemptive Picture of the Mercy Seat (Exod 25:17; cf. Heb 9:5, Rom 3:25)
- C. The Merciful shall receive Mercy