

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
[Dialogue]
2. Let's read through 5:1-11. In light of Sunday's message, how would you now define mercy? How is mercy different than grace?
[Example: A pastor once told me, "Mercy is not getting what you do deserve. Grace is getting what you don't deserve."]
3. What are some of the greatest displays of mercy you can recall in the Bible?
[Example: Joseph as he encountered his brothers during the famine in Egypt / Jesus on the cross]
4. How was this beatitude (v.7) so "upside down," both then and even today?
The Romans of Jesus' day certainly did not entertain the idea of mercy. Mercy represented weakness. They despised mercy and glorified brutality as a society. Today is not much different. A common saying now is "If you don't look out for yourself, no one else will." Selfishness rules over many today.
5. Why is the "from God" important in the second phrase of this beatitude?
"The fifth beatitude does not teach that mercy to men brings mercy from men, but that mercy to men bring mercy from God." - Pastor John MacArthur
6. How does mercy, love, forgiveness, and grace interact with one another?
Forgiveness flows out of mercy, and mercy and grace flow out of love.
7. What are practical ways you can show mercy? How might you teach mercy children?
[Dialogue] - Mercy meets the needs of others. Mercy does not hold a grudge or harbor resentment. Mercy is to have great concern for others, even over self.
8. What is an example of God setting this expectation for Israel very early on?
One Example: Deut 15:7-9 - ⁷ "If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, ⁸ but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. ⁹ Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, 'The seventh year, the year of release is near,' and your eye look grudgingly on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the Lord against you, and you be guilty of sin."

9. Who can recite all of the beatitudes up until verse v.7?

[Dialogue]

10. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is it apparent to others that Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity? Would anyone like to share the gospel with the group?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- John MacArthur Commentary - Matthew