

# Merciful

The ultimate test of our commitment and dedication to the Lord is to what degree we represent the Savior's heart to our world displaying an undying hope (Mt. 5:4), an enduring peace (Mt. 5:9), an unconquerable love (Mt. 5:7), an unquestioning faith (Mt. 5:3), and an unquenchable joy (Mt. 5:12). These are the testimony that overcomes.

How one attitude develops the next.

1. A Humble Heart: Begin with the absolute sense of our humble need for all of God.
  - Hebrews 13:5 "Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, I will never leave you or abandon you."
  - Hebrews 11:6 "Now without **faith** it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."
2. A Caring Heart: An understanding of suffering (injustice, sin, death, etc.) in the context of God's desire toward His creation.
  - 1 Peter 2:19 "a **consciousness of God**, someone endures grief from suffering **unjustly**"
3. An Obedient Heart: Suffering under God's direction develops a natural obedience. (breaking a horse)
  - Hebrews 5:8 "he **learned obedience** from what he suffered."
4. A Loving Heart: Righteousness is right relationships. This is possible only with an obedient heart toward God. Follow the path here:
  - Romans 5:1-5 "Therefore, since we have been justified by **faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 We have also obtained access through him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our **afflictions**, because we know that **affliction produces endurance**, 4 **endurance produces proven character**, and proven character produces hope. 5 This hope will not disappoint us, because **God's love has been poured out in our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."
5. A Giving Heart, a Kind Heart:
  - The **demonstration** of love. Zechariah 7:9 "Show faithful love and compassion to one another."
  - It was **natural** for Jesus to mention mercy after righteousness since this is the Greek translation or meaning behind the Hebrew righteousness. The quality or attribute of mercy in the OT is often the translation for "**righteousness**"
    - [Proverbs 3:3 NIV: "Let **love** [mercy/grace] and faithfulness [truth] never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."]
    - Isaiah 1:27 "Zion will be redeemed by justice, those who repent, by **righteousness**. [mercy]"
  - **Kindness**. A biblical word. Of God toward us and Christ's mercy.
  - 'ness' **charitable**. Not found in the classics: almsgiving, acts of benevolence. Hebrew: righteousness. Lk. 12:29-33 "Don't strive for what you should eat and what you should drink, and don't be anxious. 30 For the Gentile world eagerly seeks all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 "But seek his kingdom, and these things will be provided for you. 32 Don't be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Make money-bags for yourselves that won't grow old, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys."

- The **Good Samaritan**. Luke 10:30-37.
- God is a Giver and now in relationship with Him we represent that Spirit of giving.
  - Romans 12:8 “giving, with generosity; ... showing mercy, with cheerfulness.”
  - Jude 20-22 “But you, dear friends, as you build yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting expectantly for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life. **Have mercy** on those who waver [doubt];”
- Considering yourself a **steward** of God's riches which you are privilege to hold in trust for His use. Luke 16:12 “And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you what is your own?”
- **Unmerciful**. common in the OT but once in the New: Romans 1:31 “covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:” covenant breakers then presumes a state of peace, which they who are such unrighteously interrupt; while implacable  $\zeta$  presumes a state of war, which they refuse to bring to an equitable close.