

**Blessed are the merciful for  
they shall receive mercy.**

**Matt 5:7**



**14** For if you forgive others their  
trespasses, your heavenly Father will  
also forgive you, **15** but if you do not  
forgive others their trespasses,  
neither will your Father  
forgive your trespasses.

**Matt 6:14-15**



**Wait a minute!**  
**Isn't this earning mercy?**  
**Works-based salvation?**



**What is the core of Jesus  
message in the Sermon  
on the Mount?**



**External righteousness doesn't  
cut it. One's righteous must  
flow from a  
transformed heart.**



**The Beatitudes –  
internal righteousness  
*versus*  
external behaviors**



**Our right standing before God is established by one thing only - the finished work of Christ on the cross. Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 2:2; 1 Jn. 4:10**



**<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Eph. 2:8-9**





# Two possible explanations:

1. Relational impairment.
2. The One refusing to show mercy has never actually received God's mercy.



**Parable of the unforgiving  
servant: “out of pity for him...”**

**Matt. 18:23-35**



**“Should not you have had  
mercy on your fellow servant,  
as I had mercy on you?”**

**Matt. 18:23-35**



**So also my heavenly Father will  
do to every one of you if you  
do not forgive your brother  
from the heart. Matt 18:35**



Grace is God blessing us with  
that which we *don't* deserve.



Grace is God blessing us with  
that which we *don't* deserve.

Mercy is God withholding what  
we *do* deserve.



Grace is God blessing us with  
that which we *don't* deserve.

Mercy is God withholding what  
we *do* deserve.



**36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?”**





**37** He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.” Lk. 10:36-37



**Mercy is not just overlooking  
sin or giving sin a pass. It is  
more than a behavior.**



**It is a behavior that results  
from a heart grateful for  
undeserved forgiveness.**



**So also my heavenly Father will  
do to every one of you if you  
do not forgive your brother  
from the heart. Matt 18:35**



When in an argument, the  
“merciful” one is driven by a  
divine impulse to search self  
for fault first; to grant the  
benefit of the doubt

