**Mercy Leads to Charity**

It is important to understand as a believer that the Bible is more concerned with our being than our doing. It’s not about our actions as much as it is about our attitude. You are not a human doing; you are a human being. This blessing of Jesus calls upon the merciful. Merciful is who they are. It is in their being. Giving mercy is what they do. But giving mercy is something the merciful person does. They must BE merciful first, before they DO merciful things.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

All throughout the Bible we hear the terms “grace” and “mercy” to describe what God has done for us. Many people consider these words synonyms, while they are really not. I heard it put this way one time: Grace is God giving us what we don’t deserve; mercy is God not giving us what we do deserve.

God in His grace gave us salvation: something we didn’t deserve. God in His mercy does not send us to hell as a result of our sins. He forgives us and does not dish out that punishment upon us.

But we are not talking about Jesus when we hear this verse about the merciful. Clearly the Lord is merciful, but Jesus is specifically referring to believers—to people—that are merciful. Who are the merciful? Obviously the merciful are those who show mercy. What does it mean to be merciful though? Being merciful has to do with our relation to other people. Mercy has to do with others, not us. All the former beatitudes have to do with only the self. A meek person does not consider themself to be good. A person hungering and thirsting after righteousness is not hungering for other people to be filled, but for themselves to be filled. But to be merciful. In reality, a person cannot be merciful to themself. That is not what Jesus means when He says a person is merciful. He is speaking about the way we treat others.

To be merciful is to show forgiveness and compassion. To be merciful is to desire to help those who need help. We believers see the terrible consequences of sin and evil in the world and it leads us to help those who face those consequences. Mercy is not the same as feeling pity. Mercy is not just feeling bad for someone. Mercy is action.

As merciful people we recognize that unbelievers are blinded by the god of this world and cannot truly see Jesus for who He is! We take action by helping them see! By showing His compassion and Love! They can see Jesus through us! You are not merciful if you do not take action

God’s people are merciful people. There are people all around us every day that deserve justice. They deserve to be punished and disciplined for the way they treat us and others. But while this is what they deserve, we have an opportunity to show them mercy, knowing these actions are just the symptoms of a larger disease: sin and the devil.