

# “Be” Attitudes

## Merciful

### Review

- Jesus preached the “Sermon on the Mount” in Matthew 5, 6, & 7 and Luke 6
- He begins this sermon with the eight Beatitudes.
  - A beatitude is “the declaration of blessedness made by our Savior to particular virtues.” – Webster’s 1828
- Each is tied to a state of blessedness – “Blessed are the...”
  - This is more than just being happy or fortunate.
  - It is to be content, fulfilled, and prosperous in a spiritual and not physical sense.
- In these short phrases, Christ illustrates what the attitude of a believer should be.

### Merciful

- “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” – Matthew 5:7
- *Merciful* means “Having or exercising mercy; compassionate; tender; disposed to pity offenders and to forgive their offenses; unwilling to punish for injuries; applied appropriately to the Supreme being.” – Webster’s 1828
- Vine’s Expository Dictionary says *mercy* “is the outward manifestation of pity; it assumes need on the part of him who received it, and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it.”
- Note that this is not for those who may occasionally show mercy, but for those for whom mercy is part of their character.
- Biblical examples of mercy:
  - David showed mercy to Mephibosheth – II Samuel 9
    - This was unexpected and went against custom.
  - The Good Samaritan showed mercy to the wounded traveler – Luke 10:25-37
    - The priest and Levite failed to show mercy, but it was shown from an unexpected source.
- We should show mercy because God showed us mercy - I John 4:11
  - Parable of the Unforgiving Servant – Matthew 18:21-35
    - 10,000 silver talents = \$373,855,600
    - 100 denarii = \$426
- “they shall obtain mercy” – “Mercy is not purchased but at the price of mercy itself; and even this price is a gift of the mercy of God.” – Adam Clarke