



The
BEATITUDES

Giving Away When We Are
Taught to Get Even

Matthew 5:7

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

What is mercy?

1. Mercy is limiting or relenting from just punishment or relenting from righteous anger—especially to extend a relationship.

Micah 7:18-19

¹⁸ Who is a God like you,
who pardons sin and forgives the transgression
of the remnant of his inheritance?

You do not stay angry forever
but delight to show mercy.

¹⁹ You will again have compassion on us;
you will tread our sins underfoot
and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

What is mercy?

1. Mercy is limiting or relenting from just punishment or relenting from righteous anger—especially to extend a relationship.
- 2. Mercy is a *sensitive* act of compassion**

The merciful is he who has a sad heart; he counts others' misery his own, and is sad at their grief as at his own.

REMIGIUS, BISHOP OF RHEIMS (C. 437-533)

“The mercy of God is His readiness to share in the distress of another, a readiness which springs from His inmost being, and expresses the heart of God Himself.”



KARL BARTH

Isaiah 63:9

⁹ In all their distress he too was distressed,
and the angel of his presence saved them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old.

The complexities of mercy:

1. Mercy can have consequences for ourselves.
2. Mercy can have consequences for others.

7 Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Are we in a *game of mercy* with God?

Matthew 18:21-33

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Where's the line? Where's the limit?

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

The complexities of mercy:

1. Mercy can have consequences for ourselves.
2. Mercy can have consequences for others.
3. What if mercy can be used to my advantage?

28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’



**How we respond to this question is
how we respond to Christ.**

Micah 6:6-7

⁶ With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Hebrews 2:14-17

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ **For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.**

God the Son has taken on flesh in Jesus Christ to show mercy. Jesus Christ *is* the mercy of God. What do we do with Christ?

What do we do with the *mercy of God*—mercy we could not buy, we could not earn, and we cannot match?

Titus 3:3-8

³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ **he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.** He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.



You cannot buy God's mercy; God,
in his mercy, bought you.

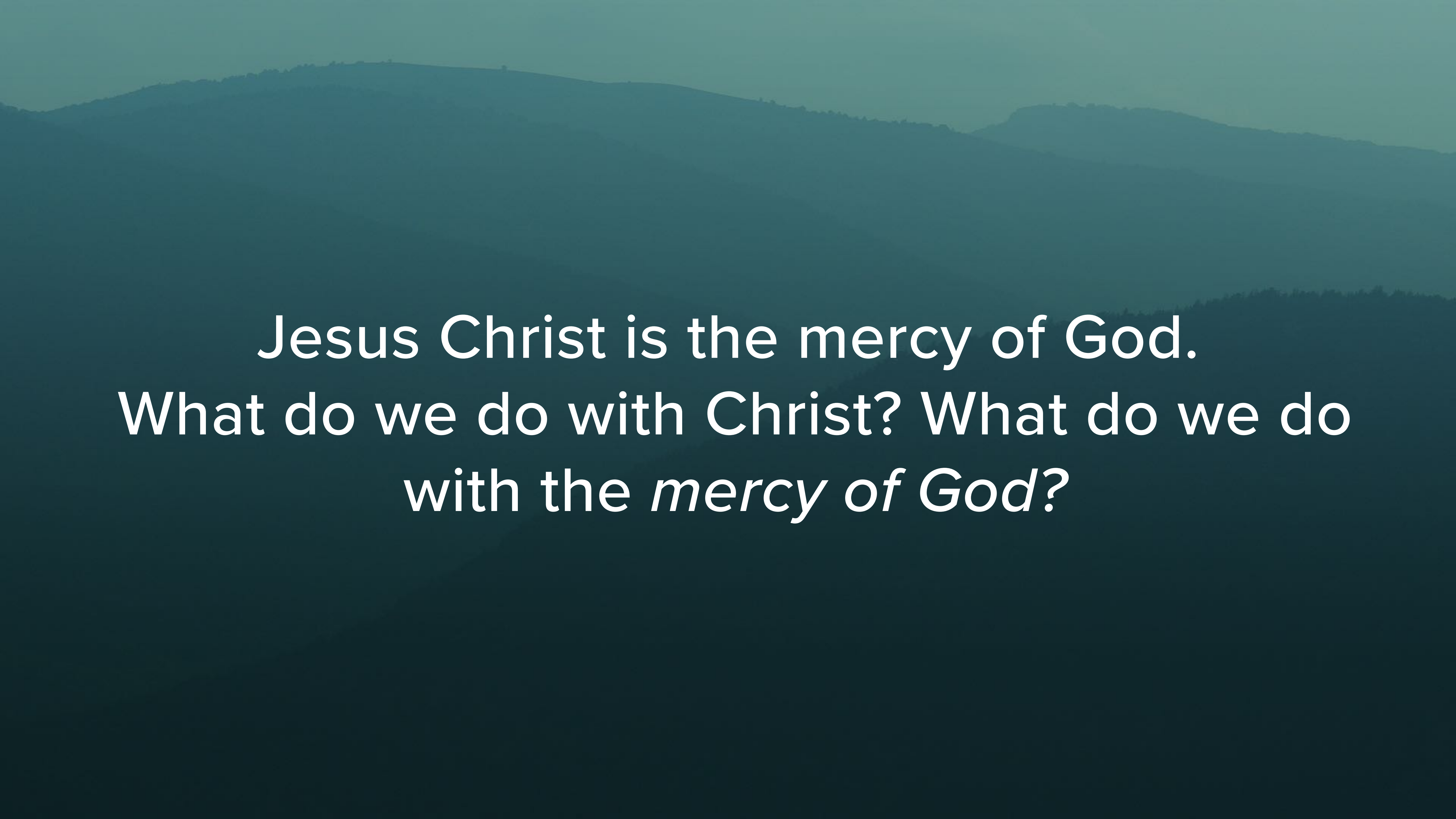
Our mercy does not earn God's mercy; our
mercy is a response to God's mercy, which
has set us on the path of mercy.

Matthew 18:32-35

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’

³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”



Jesus Christ is the mercy of God.
What do we do with Christ? What do we do
with the *mercy of God*?

Micah 6:6-8

- ⁶ With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
- ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
- ⁸ **He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.**



**How can we respond
to the mercy of God?**

Love mercy.

Christ speaks not only of those who show mercy by giving money, but who are merciful in all actions. There are many ways to show mercy and Christ's command is broad. And what's the reward? The merciful obtain mercy. It seems like a fair reward, but God's mercy is far better than our good acts. God's mercy is not our mercy. As wide as the gap between wickedness and goodness, so far is God's mercy beyond ours.

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM



**How can we respond
to the mercy of God?**

Love mercy.

Do justice.

Justice and mercy must be mingled. Justice without mercy is cruelty; mercy without justice is indulgence.

QUOTED IN ST. THOMAS'S
COMMENTARY ON MATTHEW



How can we respond
to the mercy of God?

Love mercy.

Do justice.

Walk humbly under the yoke of Christ.