

HWMR: CRUCIAL ASPECTS OF MATTHEW 5 THROUGH 7 (Week 4)

**Blessed Are the Merciful,
for They Shall Be Shown Mercy and Receive Mercy**

Scripture Reading: *Matt. 5:7; Rom. 9:15a, 16; Eph. 2:4; James 2:13; Heb. 4:16*

- Rom. 9:15 For to Moses He says, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."
Rom. 9:16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.
Eph. 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
James 2:13 For the judgment is without mercy to him who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.
Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

Day 1

Eph. 2:4 - *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.*

Matt. 9:13 - *... "I desire mercy and not sacrifice," for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*

I. "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy"...So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy"—Rom. 9:15a, 16:

- A. **Mercy** is the **most far-reaching of God's attributes**, going further than His grace and love—Matt. 9:13:
1. According to our natural condition, we were **far removed** from God, **totally unworthy** of His grace; we were **eligible only to receive His mercy**—Eph. 2:4.
 2. Our disobedience affords God's mercy an opportunity, and **God's mercy brings us to salvation**—Rom. 11:32.
- B. Our concept is that the **one who wills will gain what he wills** to obtain and that the **one who runs will gain what he runs after**—9:16:
1. If this were the case, God's selection would be according to our effort and labor.
 2. On the contrary, **God's selection is of God who shows mercy; we do not need to will or to run**, for God has mercy on us.
 3. If we know God's mercy, we will neither trust in our effort nor be disappointed by our failures; the hope for our wretched condition is in God's mercy—Eph. 2:4.

Day 2

Rom. 9:15-16 - *For to Moses He says, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.*

- C. If we would serve God in His New Testament economy, we need to know that it is wholly a matter of **God's sovereign mercy**—Rom. 9:15-16; Heb. 4:16:
1. If we know God's sovereignty, we will **thank Him for His mercy**:
 - a. The expression *sovereign mercy* means that God's mercy is absolutely a matter of **God's sovereignty**.
 - b. Being a vessel of mercy is not the result of our choice; it **originates with God's sovereignty**—Rom. 9:18, 23.
 - c. God's mercy is in His sovereignty; the only thing we can say to explain God's mercy to us is that in His sovereignty, **He has chosen to be merciful to us**—vv. 15-16, 23.
 2. In God's sovereign mercy, our hearts are **inclined toward Him**; because of His mercy to us, we seek Him day by day—Jer. 29:13; Deut. 4:29; Isa. 55:6.
 3. The more we see that everything related to us is a matter of God's mercy, the more we will bear our responsibility before the Lord; however, even **our willingness to bear responsibility is of God's mercy**.
 4. Because of **God's mercy**, **we responded to His gospel** when others did not, we received a word about Christ as life when others refused to receive it, and we took the way of the Lord's recovery when others drew back from taking this way.
 5. Regarding His recovery, **God has mercy on whom He will have mercy**.

Day 3

Rom. 9:18 - So then He has mercy on whom He wills, and He hardens whom He wills.

Rom. 9:23 - In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory.

- D. Romans 9 reveals the principle that **everything depends on God's mercy**—vv. 15-16:
1. The apostle Paul applies this principle to the Israelites, showing us that everything that happened to them was of God's mercy—vv. 16, 23.
 2. There must be at least one time when we see God's mercy and definitely touch His mercy—Eph. 2:4; Matt. 9:13:
 - a. Concerning this matter, **our eyes need to be opened** to see that everything depends on God's mercy.
 - b. Whether we see this all at once, or we realize it through a process, the minute we touch this matter, we touch not a feeling but a fact; **this fact is that everything depends on God's mercy**.

Day 4

Heb. 2:17 - Hence He should have been made like His brothers in all things that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Heb. 4:16 - Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

- E. “Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may **receive mercy and find grace** for timely help”—Heb. 4:16:
1. Both God’s mercy and His grace are the **expression of His love**.
 2. When we are in a pitiful condition, first **His mercy reaches us** and **brings us** into a state where God is able to favor us with His grace.
 3. God’s mercy and grace are always available to us; however, we need to receive and find them by **exercising our spirit to come forward to the throne of grace**—
v. 16.
- F. In His sovereignty God the Father has had mercy on us; therefore, **we must praise and worship Him for His sovereign mercy**:
1. “Father, we enjoy Thy mercy, / Ever fresh and ever new; / Every morning shed upon us, / It refreshes as the dew. / How we taste it! How we taste it! / Giving Thee the praises due”—*Hymns*, #26, stanza 5.
 2. “Father, Thy mercy with Thy love and grace / Did we obtain; / And in Thy mercy, with Thee face to face, / We’ll e’er remain; / And for Thy mercy we would worship Thee / Through all our days and through eternity”—*Hymns*, #25, stanza 3.

Day 5

Matt. 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.

2 Tim. 1:16 - May the Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chain.

2 Tim. 1:18 - May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord in that day. And in how many things he served me in Ephesus, you know best.

II. “Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall be shown mercy”—Matt. 5:7:

- A. To be righteous is to give one what he deserves, whereas to be **merciful** is to **give someone better than he deserves**.
- B. For the kingdom of the heavens, we need to be not only **righteous** but also **merciful**.
- C. To receive mercy is to **receive what we do not deserve**.
- D. If we are **merciful to others**, the Lord will give us mercy (2 Tim. 1:16, 18), especially at His judgment seat—James 2:12-13.
- E. We must **learn to be righteous with ourselves** and **merciful toward others**.

III. “**Grace, mercy, peace** from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord”—2 Tim. 1:2:

- A. Only in 1 and 2 Timothy, among all his Epistles, did the apostle include God’s mercy in the opening greeting.
- B. God’s mercy reaches **farther than His grace**.
- C. In the **degraded situation** of the churches, **God’s mercy is needed**.
- D. This mercy **brings in God’s rich grace**, which is sufficient to deal with any degradation.

Day 6

2 Tim. 1:2 - To Timothy, beloved child: Grace, mercy, peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

James 2:12-13 - So speak and so do as those who are to be judged by the law of freedom. For the judgment is without mercy to him who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

IV. “The judgment is without mercy to him who has shown no mercy; **mercy triumphs over judgment**”—James 2:13:

- A. To **despise a poor** brother is to **have no mercy**.
- B. Anyone who **despises a poor** brother in this way **will not receive mercy** when he appears before the judgment seat of Christ—Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10:
 - 1. When we come before the Lord to be judged, He will **not show mercy to us**, because **we have not shown mercy to our brother**.
 - 2. **We need to show mercy**, for mercy triumphs over judgment.
 - 3. If we have **mercy on our brother today**, **we will receive mercy** from the Lord at His judgment seat.

V. We should bow down before the Lord and **worship Him for His mercy**—Psa. 145; Isa. 63:9; John 10:10; Rom. 3:24; 11:32; 2 Cor. 4:1; Eph. 2:4-5:

- A. The **more we worship** the Lord for His mercy, the **more we will be uplifted**.
- B. What a mercy that God has **selected us**, **predestinated us**, **called us**, and **placed us** in His recovery!
- C. For the future we trust not in ourselves but **in Him and in His marvelous mercy**.
- D. Our going on with the Lord is a matter not of our willing or running but of God’s mercy.
- E. God’s mercy works in a wonderful way.