

Sermon Title: **“BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL”**

Matthew 5:1-12

- “Mercy” = God withholding what we do deserve
  - It’s fair to say, ALL of us LOVE God extending mercy toward us, after we’ve blown it
  - God’s mercy withholds ALL of the just punishment, which was looming over our heads (the wrath of God)
- Originally, we are dead (there’s NO spiritual life in us)
  - “Offense” = Trespass; it’s intention or unintentional sin; it is an all-encompassing term meaning wrongdoing
  - Unless something changed, we were headed – full steam ahead – toward the wrath of God
  - ALL of us pursued our own desires (“if it feels good do it”)
  - We go from DEAD to truly ALIVE with Christ
- Extending this type of mercy is ONLY possible, when we 1<sup>st</sup> see what God’s done for us
  - God may have put you in their life to be a breath of fresh air (to love on them like Christ loved you)
- ALL of us are Broken ...
  - I recognize my brokenness ...
  - I recognize my dependency on God for EVERYTHING ...
  - I recognize God’s mercy, God’s grace, & God’s forgiveness ...
  - I recognize APART from Christ, I’m NOTHING ...
  - & I recognize that God desires to use me to point other broken people to a personal relationship with Himself
  - God cares for & loves deeply, intimately, & personally EACH & EVERY human (we are precious to Him)
- If God responds to us in mercy that means we NEED to be quick to respond that way to other people