

“Blessed are the Merciful”
by Rev. John C. Tittle

Scripture: Matthew 5: 7 NRSVue

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you define mercy?
2. Why is the reward and the deed the same? (i.e. the deed of mercy is rewarded with the gift of mercy)
3. There are many principals of reciprocity found in Jesus’ teaching (i.e. judge not, lest ye be judged). Can you think of other ones? Does this mean that grace is earned? Is this just glorified karma?
4. What areas of life should mercy be shown? What about in our individual lives? What about as a church? What about our country?
5. One of the defining ethics for both Jews and Christians is showing mercy to the vulnerable. Why is this so important?
6. Mercy is often paired with other positive qualities like justice, goodness, love, etc. Why do you think that is?
7. Why does Jesus say, “If you don’t forgive others, your heavenly Father won’t forgive you.” Do we earn God’s forgiveness? Why is forgiveness so important in our lives?
8. Where do you want to be more merciful in your life?