

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 1, 2013

Passage: Matthew 5:7

Memory Passage: Matthew 5:7 (and review your memory of Matthew 5:1-6)

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matt. 5:1-6:** By way of review: For what kind of righteousness will the blessed one hunger & thirst? Why did Jesus choose this particular metaphor to describe the blessed one's desire? How will the blessed one be satisfied?
- (b) Explain how the 4<sup>th</sup> Beatitude is connected to the first 3 Beatitudes. Why is it important to understand these connections?
- (c) Write at least 3 applications from last week (from your study, your Sunday school discussion, or the sermon) that you are going to be intentional about implementing in your life this week.
- (d) *Family:* Lead your family through a review of what you learned last week, and review ways that your family can apply what you learned. You may use (a) – (c) above if you need help structuring the review.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matt. 5:7, Ex. 34:5-7, & Deut. 4:15-31.** What do you learn about God's character from the Exodus passage? How do you explain God's pronouncement of being merciful in light of the judgment He promises in v. 7?
- (b) Against what does Moses warn the children of Israel in Deut. 4:15-31? What judgment does Moses promise if they disobey God in this area? How is the nation's disobedience described in relation to the covenant (v. 23)? How is God's relationship to the covenant described (v. 31)?
- (c) How does Moses instruct the nation to respond to their own disobedience in order for God's mercy to be released upon them (vs. 28-30)? What is merciful about His response (v. 31)? How does this reflect His character as described in Ex. 34:5-7?
- (d) In what ways are you guilty of being an idolater? What instruction do you receive from these passages that help you know how to respond to your sin of idolatry? In what ways does knowing the merciful character of God bring you comfort? In what ways have you benefited from God's mercy in the area of sin in general?
- (e) *Family:* Lead your family through (a) – (d) above, helping your family to fully understand not only the Israelites' idolatry, but how idolatry can be an issue for us as well and why we should also heed Moses' call to repentance.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matt. 5:7, Hos. 6:1-10, & Matt. 9:9-13.** In Hos. 6:6 the word translated "steadfast love" is translated as "mercy" in the Greek translation of the OT (the Septuagint, or LXX). What has happened in Hosea 6 to warrant God making this statement (v. 6) through His prophet? How does the covenant come into play in this chapter? What is the prophet's call to Israel and Judah?
- (b) Jesus quotes Hos. 6:6 in Matt. 9:13. What is the setting in Matt. 9 that prompts His quote, and how does the situation with the Pharisees compare to that of the Israelites in Hos. 6?
- (c) Why is there a need for the Pharisees to "go and learn what this means?" What should they learn if they truly understand the fact that God desires mercy and not sacrifice? What point is Jesus trying to make, and what does He want the Pharisees to actually do after they grow in their knowledge of God? Did they go away and learn this (cf. Matt. 12:7)?
- (d) In what ways do you attempt to act with "sacrifice" rather than "mercy?" What changes should you make to your life & priorities in order to become more marked by mercy than sacrifice?
- (e) *Family:* Lead your family through (a) – (d) above.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matt. 5:7 & Luke 10:25-37.** What is the lawyer's initial concern (v. 25)? Jesus answers his question with another question, and the lawyer responds with an answer that Jesus affirms as correct. Why does the lawyer ask yet another question after Jesus' affirmation? What does this reveal about him, his life, and his initial inquiry?
- (b) Upon what basis does the lawyer decide which of the three men acted as a neighbor to the injured man? What was merciful about the way the Samaritan acted, and what was unmerciful about the way the priest & Levite acted?

(c) Given this parable, how would you describe the relationship between being merciful and obeying the law of God? What is the relationship between inheriting eternal life and being merciful? How do you reconcile the need to be merciful towards others in order to inherit eternal life with the fact that no one inherits eternal life based on their own works?

(d) Describe the opportunities you have had during the last several weeks to be merciful but yet you have chosen to “pass by on the other side.” If you could rewind your life back to a point 2 weeks ago and relive these opportunities, how would you act differently based on what you are learning about the necessity of being merciful?

(e) *Family*: Lead your family through (a) – (d) above. This would be a great passage to act out with your family. Do it several times, first with the details as they are found in Scripture, and then again with different scenarios that your family members might face in their lives (i.e. helping another kid who is in trouble on a playground, helping an elderly or handicapped person load groceries into their car, etc.). Help them sense what it means to be sacrificial with their time, possessions, and comfort.

#### **DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Matt. 5:7, Heb. 2:17-18, & 8:1-13.** According to Jesus’ words in the 5<sup>th</sup> Beatitude, those who are merciful will be blessed with receiving mercy. Is the mercy spoken of here from men or from God? How do you know? For what reason are we most in need of mercy from God? According to these passages from Hebrews, how and upon what basis is mercy given?

(b) Write down at least 3 specific people/situations in which you will endeavor to become more merciful in the coming days. Be specific with both the people/situation and with the details of how you will be more merciful. Also include any priorities you must rearrange and self-righteousness/self-justification you must overcome.

(c) *Family*: Lead your family through (a) – (b) above. Help everyone understand how often our concern for ourselves gets in the way of us being merciful: “I don’t have the time,” “I would feel uncomfortable,” “I am afraid of what someone will say,” “They don’t really need any help,” etc.

**DATE: September 1, 2013**

**PASSAGE: Matthew 5:7**

#### ***Mercy for the Merciful***

*In Matthew 5:7 we find Jesus teaching the fifth beatitude.  
In it we learn about 2 more characteristics of the blessed one.*