



PART 6: BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

INTRODUCTION

What if the underlying spiritual issue facing the Church today is that we've failed to take Jesus seriously enough? What if much of the culture's judgment of Christians isn't the result of Christians obeying Jesus, but the result of Christians ignoring him? What could look differently in culture, and in our lives, if we lived like Jesus was serious?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:7

1 John 4:20-21

Luke 18:9-14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When have you felt most in need (or miserable)? What were the circumstances? What was your greatest need during that time? Who, if anybody, responded with love and compassion?
2. Read Luke 18:9-14. Jesus gives the definition of self-righteousness—being confident in your own righteousness. When have you been confident in your own righteousness? Who did you look down on as a result?
3. Who or what have you ever used as your standard of righteousness?
4. Notice the posture of the tax collector in verse 13. Why is posture important when we go before God? What changes do you need to make in your posture before God?
5. Read 1 John 4:20-21. Where do you personally struggle with separating your relationship with God and your relationship with others?
6. Who has God put in your life that needs mercy (whether they deserve it or expect it, or not)? How can you show mercy today?

MOVING FORWARD

Application Prayer: God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Please use me to show mercy to anyone you place on my heart.