

Small Group Questions: Happy Are the Merciful

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Read

Matthew 5:7

Reflect

Dr. Derwin L. Gray, founder and lead pastor of Transformation Church in Indian Land, SC, uses Jesus's Sermon On The Mount to show us that our happiness does not have to be dependent on what happens to us. We can experience deep-rooted happiness that is not based on our circumstances. In this talk, from chapter six of his new book, *The Good Life, What Jesus Teaches about Finding True Happiness*, he focuses on how being merciful makes us happy.

Merciful people are happy people. People who lack mercy lack happiness.

To begin, think of someone you know who is especially merciful. How do you think this person's mercy makes him/her happy?

Being a Merciful Person Means:

1. Loving God by loving people you are not supposed to love.
 - a. Who is someone we are not "supposed" to love by worldly definitions – maybe as dictated by society or a group of people?
2. That every human being is your neighbor.
 - a. Whom do we have trouble seeing as our neighbors? People we disagree with? People who are stuck in patterns they can't break out of? People who look or act differently than us?
3. That you cross ethnic, cultural, and religious barriers to help hurting people.
 - a. What labels do we give people to excuse ourselves from loving them?
 - b. How can we better understand people who are different from us? How can we make their pain our pain?
4. That you are willing to count the cost of loving your neighbor.
 - a. What financial sacrifices God is calling you to make for someone else?
 - b. How can you sacrifice by letting yourself be inconvenienced?
 - a. Is there someone who has hurt you that you need to forgive?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?