

## **Small Group Questions: Mercy**

### **Series: How To Be Happy**

Pastor Adam Martin

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### **Read**

Matthew 5:3–5; 9:9–13; 18:22–33; and 26:52–53

### **Reflect**

In the Beatitudes, Jesus reveals how we can experience true happiness in our lives. Jesus said: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” Through Jesus, God did not give us the justice and punishment we deserved. Instead, he showed us grace and mercy in a way unrivaled for all time. He had compassion for us. We, in turn, are to have compassion for others—to suffer with one another. How in our “cancel culture” can we better reflect God’s heart to the world?

Pastor Adam Martin explains why mercy is an essential part of experiencing the true happiness God wants for us in our lives.

#### **1. What is it?**

- a. How would you define mercy? What was the ultimate mercy?
- b. Describe a time when you received mercy from someone?
  - i. How did you react? With gratitude, resentment, indifference, or entitlement? Why?
  - ii. How do you react when someone else receives mercy?
- c. How hard is it for you not to give people what they seem to deserve?
- d. How might we be taking our eyes off the mercy God has shown to us?

#### **2. Why is it important?**

- a. What does our level of mercy for others reveal about us?
- b. In what specific areas is it hardest for you to forgive or show others mercy?

#### **3. How do we do it?**

- a. How can we cultivate mercy?
- b. Have you received and accepted God’s mercy for yourself? Why is this needed before mercy can flow outward to others?
- c. How do the first beatitudes build together and help us cultivate mercy? (Blessed are the poor in spirit...; blessed are those who mourn...; blessed are the meek...)
- d. What could you add to your daily routine to help you learn to show more mercy? Ex. give God the time (prayer, worship, devotions, small group).

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