

# Blessed Are the Merciful

- *Blessed are the merciful,*
- *For they shall obtain mercy. Mt 5:7*
  
- **Hear these sayings of Mine and DOES THEM:**
  - Like a wise man who built house on rock
    - did not fall because it was built on the rock
- **Hear these sayings of Mine and DOESN'T DO:**
  - Like a foolish man who built house on sand
    - it did fall because it was built on sand
- **Are we being wise or foolish?**

# Standard Definition

- *“eleos... mercy; kindness or good will toward the miserable and afflicted, joined with a desire to relieve them; (Thayer, 1656)*
- 1<sup>st</sup> Tender feelings of compassion or pity.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The desire to relieve them.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> making the sacrifice necessary to help.
- If and of these is lacking ... not mercy.
- Most people stop at the 1<sup>st</sup>
- Some will take the 2<sup>nd</sup> but don't pay the price
- Only those who move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> are merciful

# Deeper Definition

- In Greek, *eleos*(mercy) is a *pathos*(strong emotion), ...the **emotion roused by contact with an affliction** (Kittel Vol 2 p. 477-487)
- *Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Mt. 7:12*
- When we practice this, we are prepared to give mercy to all as we would want mercy.
- *Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. Mt 5:7*

# Entering into the English Language

- **Pathos** emotions aroused by seeing affliction
- Natural affection – tender pity and compassion
- **Sympathy**—“sum”— “with,” (*Latin: com-passio*)—  
“feel strongly with”
- **Empathy**—(*em* “in” “feel strongly within”
- **Apathy**— “a”— (*alpha-privative*) negates “feel  
*nothing*”
- **Antipathy** *anti* – opposed against. Your own fault
- **Pathetic** – your own fault with a sneer.
- This is only the first step to mercy.

# Antipathy / Pathetic

- *"**But he was angry** and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. 29 So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; **I never transgressed your commandment at any time**; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. 30 But **as soon as this son of yours came**, who has **devoured your livelihood with harlots**, you killed the fatted calf for him.' Luke 15:28-30*
- *a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, **who sinned, this man or his parents**, that he was born blind?" John 9:1-2*



# Mercy Vs Apathy

- The Good Samaritan – Mercy Lk. 10:30-37
- Priest and Levite ... Apathy ... Just passed by
- Samaritan ... Pity & Compassion ... Mercy
- *33 And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.*
- Prodigal Son – No Mercy / compassion Lk. 15:11ff
- his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, was lost and is found.

# Empathy Sympathy Compassion

● For we do not have a High Priest who **cannot sympathize with our weaknesses**, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that **we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.** Heb 4:15-16

● Not like the brother of the prodigal but the father

● This passage has it all!

● First, ...*sympathy*... that will ... *obtain mercy*...

● Second, *Obtain Mercy* that will find grace to *help in time of need.*

# Three Realms of Mercy

- The Realms of Mercy:
- (1<sup>st</sup>) Things that come through no fault of our own like a car accident, illness, or financial troubles.
- (2<sup>nd</sup>) things we bring upon ourselves through bad judgment, folly breaking the law
- (3<sup>rd</sup>) Those who sin against God and against us.
- What comes to mind? Sympathy, empathy and compassion for all three?
- Apathy, antipathy because they are pathetic?



# They Shall Obtain Mercy

- *For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. James 2:13*
- *"Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For **with what judgment you judge, you will be judged;** and **with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.** Mt 7:1-2*
- *12 And forgive us our debts, **AS** we forgive our debtors. 14 "For **if you forgive** men their trespasses, **your heavenly Father will also forgive** you. 15 But **if you do not forgive** men their trespasses, **neither will your Father forgive** your trespasses. Matt 6:12-15*

# An Important Stone in Our Foundation

● *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.*  
Col 3:12-15

- Have we put these on?
- Is this our foundation in dealing with others?

# There Are Two Gates. The Narrow One:

if you do not **believe** that I am He, you will die in your sins." Jn. 8:24

unless you **repent** you will all likewise perish. Lk. 13:5

if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Rom. 10:9-10

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who **believes** and **is baptized** will be saved; Mk. 16:15-16

**Repent**, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins Ats 2:38

If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.