



Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

March 19th

PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

MATTHEW 5:7

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

Write your own one line understanding of what you think mercy means.

Discuss this statement and question:

"If the courts had mercy and forgiveness on every hard-nosed crim, our streets would not be safe and our society would be awash with crime"

So - what then is the difference between justice and mercy?

The Old Testament spoke of "an eye for an eye" which was designed to address equality of crime and justice, and to stop disproportionate revenge and conflict escalation.

Read Matthew 5:38-39 How did Jesus redefine our response to personal offense?

Do you think Jesus' advice negates making someone accountable for their behaviour? Why / why not? Doesn't this just reinforce and perpetuate their bad behaviour?

Should we have mercy on those who abuse others in the workplace or home?

Which of these following three passages speak most strongly to your current life?

- Luke 6:38-42 says "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful"
- Matthew 18:21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."
- 1 Corinthians 13:5c Love.....keeps no record of wrongs.

How would you answer 'honest John' "Mercy is a great idea but when I read this verse I just feel deflated because I struggle to forgive others perfectly and I fear God won't forgive me."

Matthew 18 :35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Your biggest take away from this reflection is.....