

“Talk it Over” Discussion Questions

Happy

4/10/16

Blessed Are The Merciful

Facilitator Instructions:

Please use these questions as a guide. You do not need to cover each of them OR ask them in the listed order. Hopefully they will serve as a springboard to a great discussion. Remember, allow some “wait time” before moving along to the next question.

Message Summary:

This week’s message was based on Matthew 5:7 ,which says “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” We have learned that blessed means “happy.” So Jesus was saying: Happy are people who are merciful. Mercy is when you see a need and meet it, when you find a hurt and heal it.

Ice-Breaker: (Use this as a kick-off to get the discussion going)

When was a time you were shown mercy?

Involve questions: (These questions are focused on others..it is always easier to open with a question that isn’t personal.)

Mike discussed a few examples of why people do not show mercy. What excuses have you heard or possibly used yourself not to show mercy?

William Barclay said “Real religion is to draw strength from God in order to give it to others.” What changes when you view your time with God to recharge you to be merciful? How do we do this?

One of the excuses used was “I’ll serve some other time.” Have you ever waited and missed out on a great opportunity?

Engage questions: (The following questions are used to engage the group - how does this topic apply to you?....What do you think?)

Read Matthew 9: 9-13. What was Jesus doing that the Pharisees opposed?

What did Jesus mean when he said “I desire mercy, not sacrifice”?

How were the Pharisees sacrificing but not being merciful?

In what ways do we do the same?

Challenge Portion: (Next Steps)

How have you been encouraged to show mercy?