

Group/Individual Study

Series: "Bless this Home" - Mercy Matters

Passages: Matthew 5:7, John 7:37-39, Matthew 18:21-35

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 6/11

1. Read Matthew 5:7. Why do you think it's important to look at "mercy" when we are talking about our homes and those relationships that mean the most to us? What primary relationships tend to become most "mercy starved"? Why do you think that is?
2. What do you think is the role of mercy in a marriage? As parents? As children of our parents? What can make primary relationships harder to show mercy in? What can make them easier to show mercy in?
3. Read or scan Matthew 18:21-35. How does a deep and profound experience of God's mercy and forgiveness affect our ability to extend mercy and forgiveness to others? How is God's forgiveness of us similar to our forgiveness of people? How is it different? Have you ever experienced the need to forgive *and* protect yourself at the same time?
4. A wise Christian leader once said, "Most of the time when I'm offended, it's my flesh that is offended, not my spirit." What he meant was that most offenses somehow make us feel *personally* slighted or hurt in some way - rather than us rising up out of some Christ-driven motive. Do you agree or disagree? Does it help you to filter offenses through this lens?
5. Another Christian leader once said, "Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and hoping the other person will die." Comment on this idea. Have you ever experienced the toxicity of unforgiveness (either in you or toward you)?
6. In John 7:37-39, Jesus says that after thirsty ones come to drink from His goodness, living water akin to what He gives us begins to flow through us to others. Pick a relationship that can be problematic for you. How do you think this verse might play out in a redemptive way there?