






| | |
|--|--|
|  <p>SERIES & TITLE</p> | <p>JESUS MANIFESTO - Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy</p> |
|  <p>BIG IDEA</p> | <p>When it comes to forgiveness, God will treat you the way you treat other people...If he asks you to forgive, he will give you the strength to forgive...</p> |
|  <p>ICE BREAKER</p> | <p>Share a time when they received unexpected mercy or forgiveness from someone. How did it make you feel?</p> |
|  <p>MAIN POINTS</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jesus teaches that we should give others what they don't deserve (mercy), just as God has given us what we don't deserve. ● Forgiveness is not easy or fair, but it is necessary for spiritual and emotional well-being. ● Forgiveness is a process, not a one-time event. ● Forgiveness is an act of cooperation with God, not just determination. ● The process of forgiveness involves acknowledging facts and feelings, verbally forgiving, and asking God for help. ● Forgiveness leads to healing for the one who forgives, not necessarily the offender. ● Living with healed scars is better than living with open wounds. |
|  <p>DISCUSS</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes mercy and forgiveness so strongly in his teachings? 2. The sermon states, "Happy are those who give people what they don't deserve." How does this challenge your perspective on dealing with others who have wronged you? 3. Discuss the difference between forgiveness and trust. How can one forgive without necessarily restoring a relationship? 4. The speaker mentions that forgiveness is a process. What steps in the forgiveness process do you find most challenging? 5. How does the idea that "God will treat you the way you treat others" in terms of forgiveness impact your view of your own need for God's mercy? 6. The sermon distinguishes between living wounded and living scarred. What do you think this means in practical terms? 7. How can we cultivate a more merciful attitude in our daily lives, especially towards those who are difficult to forgive? 8. The speaker suggests that God can use our scars for good. Can you think of examples where past hurts have been transformed into something positive? 9. What role does prayer and reliance on the Holy Spirit play in the process of forgiveness? 10. How might our ability to forgive others impact our witness as Christians to the world around us? |
| | <p>This week, take the "Forgiveness Challenge":</p> |



NEXT STEP

- Set aside quiet time for reflection and prayer.
- Identify one person or situation where you're struggling to forgive.
- Write down the facts of what happened and how it made you feel.
- Acknowledge the facts and your feelings on paper.
- Say out loud, "I choose to forgive [person's name] for [specific action]."
- Pray, asking God for the strength to follow through with forgiveness and for healing.

Each day this week, repeat steps 3 and 4 for the same person/situation.

At the end of the week, reflect on any changes in your feelings or perspective.

If you're comfortable, share your experience with a trusted friend or small group for support and accountability.



SCRIPTURE

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Matthew 5:7).

The parable of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:21-35) illustrates how God will treat us as we treat others in terms of forgiveness.



NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK

Join us next week as we continue our summer series: JESUS MANIFESTO! Pastor Shan will be teaching this summer - you're not going to want to miss this. Tune in in-person or online at CentralAZ.com/messages!