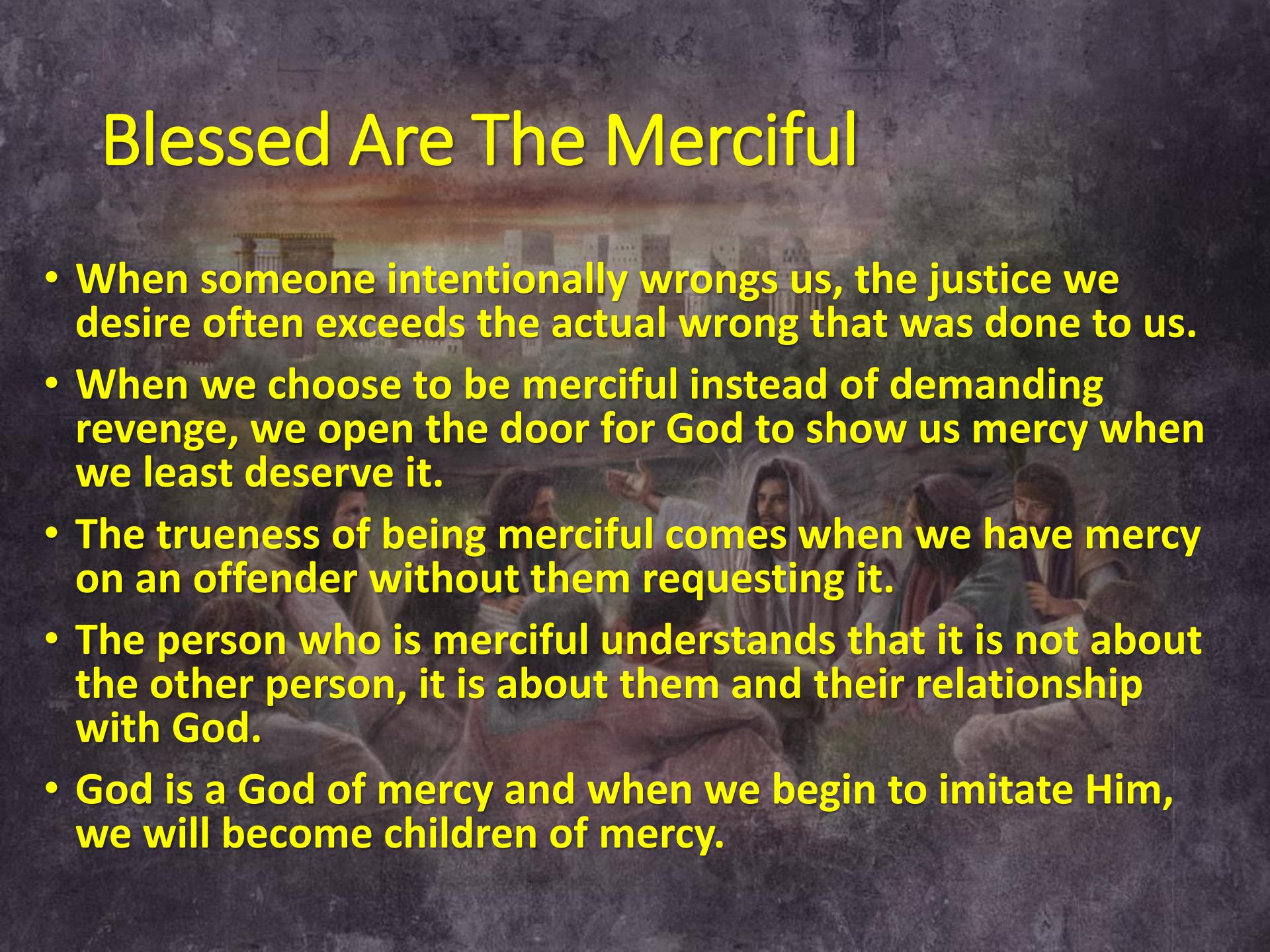




# Living In the Kingdom, Part 3

Matthew 5:7-9; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 3:1-3

# Blessed Are The Merciful

A painting depicting a scene from the Bible. In the center, Jesus Christ stands with his hands raised, looking towards the sky. He is surrounded by a group of people, some of whom appear to be in a state of distress or awe. The background shows a city skyline with various buildings and structures.

- When someone intentionally wrongs us, the justice we desire often exceeds the actual wrong that was done to us.
- When we choose to be merciful instead of demanding revenge, we open the door for God to show us mercy when we least deserve it.
- The trueness of being merciful comes when we have mercy on an offender without them requesting it.
- The person who is merciful understands that it is not about the other person, it is about them and their relationship with God.
- God is a God of mercy and when we begin to imitate Him, we will become children of mercy.

# Blessed Are The Pure In Heart

- All will see God on the Day of Judgment; but the pure in heart will see God here – spiritually.
- It is impossible for us to become pure in heart if we are unwilling to show mercy.
- The world in which we operate is centered on deception which is masked as truth.
- We cannot walk in this world with a pure heart if we allow the world's standard of deception to be the basis of how we interact with others.
- When Jesus cleanses our hearts, we become clean, but because we have lived in filth for so long, we can still see stains that others cannot.

# Blessed Are The Peacemakers

- The world wants us to be inner focused while Jesus said those who are focused on bringing peace to others will be known as the sons and daughters of God.
- Those who actively promote peace reflect the character of their heavenly Father and are called “children of God.”
- Being a peacemaker does not mean that we are to continue to be abused; but it does mean that we are not to seek revenge.
- When we are nice to our enemies our niceness is like heaping burning coals on top of their heads.

# Conclusion

- When we are nice to our enemies, our niceness is like heaping burning coals on their heads.
- Conversely, when we respond to them in the same way they treat us, then their actions are justified.
- Many Christians today show very little love for their fellow man who disagrees with their point of view.
- Being a peacemaker is the only way that we can show Christ to a dying world.