

The Beatitudes: The Merciful

September 25, 2016

Matthew 5:7 NASB

7 Blessed are the **MERCIFUL** (*eleēmōn* - actively compassionate), for they shall receive **MERCY** (*eleeō* - have compassion, have pity, to help, aid).

THE HEART OF MERCY

Knowing how much you've been forgiven should make you eager and quick to forgive. Knowing how merciful God has been to you in saving, guiding, protecting and providing should make you eager and quick to show mercy. Knowing how you have suffered in pain should make you tenderhearted and sympathetic towards others who are suffering. Knowing how patient God has been with you, should make you eager and quick to be patient with others.

James 5:11 NASB

"...the Lord is **FULL OF COMPASSION** and is **MERCIFUL**."

Matthew 20:32-34 NASB

32 And Jesus stopped and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

33 They said to Him, "Lord, we want our eyes to be opened."

34 **MOVED WITH COMPASSION, JESUS TOUCHED THEIR EYES; and IMMEDIATELY THEY REGAINED THEIR SIGHT** and followed Him.

Hebrews 4:15-16 KJV

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be **TOUCHED** (*sympatheō* - affected with the same feeling as another, to feel for, have compassion for) **WITH THE FEELING OF OUR INFIRMITIES; BUT WAS IN ALL POINTS TEMPTED LIKE AS WE ARE, YET WITHOUT SIN.**

16 **LET US THEREFORE COME BOLDLY UNTO THE THRONE OF GRACE, THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY, AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.**

Colossians 3:12 KJV

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **BOWELS OF MERCIES** (NASB - "heart of compassion"), kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Luke 10:30-37 NASB

30 Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.

31 "And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 "Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

33 "But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,

34 and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

35 "On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.'

36 "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?"

37 And he said, "**THE ONE WHO SHOWED MERCY TOWARD HIM.**" Then Jesus said to him, "**GO AND DO THE SAME.**"

1 John 3:17-18 NASB

17 BUT WHOEVER HAS THE WORLD'S GOODS, AND SEES HIS BROTHER IN NEED AND CLOSES HIS HEART AGAINST HIM, HOW DOES THE LOVE OF GOD ABIDE IN HIM?

18 LITTLE CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE WITH WORD OR WITH TONGUE, BUT IN DEED AND TRUTH.

THE EVANGELISM OF MERCY

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." -- David Jeremiah

God's love is:

1. **Unconditional** - *regardless of who you are or what you've done*

Romans 5:7-8 NASB

7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.

8 BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.

1 John 1:9 NASB

9 IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND RIGHTEOUS TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

Isaiah 1:18 NASB

18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "**THOUGH YOUR SINS ARE AS SCARLET, THEY WILL BE AS WHITE AS SNOW; THOUGH THEY ARE RED LIKE CRIMSON, THEY WILL BE LIKE WOOL.**"

2. **Universal** - *not one person excluded*

2 Peter 3:9 NASB

9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **NOT WISHING FOR ANY TO PERISH BUT FOR ALL TO COME TO REPENTANCE.**

1 John 2:2 NASB

2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, **BUT ALSO FOR THOSE OF THE WHOLE WORLD.**

Matthew 10:5-8 NASB

5 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans;

6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

7 **AND AS YOU GO, PREACH, SAYING, 'THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.'**

8 **HEAL THE SICK, RAISE THE DEAD, CLEANSE THE LEPERS, CAST OUT DEMONS. FREELY YOU RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE.**

Matthew 15:32-38 NASB

32 And Jesus called His disciples to Him, and said, "**I FEEL COMPASSION FOR THE PEOPLE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE REMAINED WITH ME NOW THREE DAYS AND HAVE NOTHING TO EAT; AND I DO NOT WANT TO SEND THEM AWAY HUNGRY, FOR THEY MIGHT FAINT ON THE WAY.**"

33 The disciples said to Him, "Where would we get so many loaves in this desolate place to satisfy such a large crowd?"

34 And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven, and a few small fish."

35 And He directed the people to sit down on the ground;

36 and He took the seven loaves and the fish; and giving thanks, He broke them and started giving them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

37 And they all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, seven large baskets full.

38 And those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.

THE BALANCE OF MERCY

God is very protective of His children against those who would take advantage and abuse the merciful.

Matthew 10:5-18 NASB

5 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans;

6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

9 **DO NOT ACQUIRE GOLD, OR SILVER, OR COPPER FOR YOUR MONEY BELTS,**

10 **OR A BAG FOR YOUR JOURNEY, OR EVEN TWO COATS, OR SANDALS, OR A STAFF; FOR THE WORKER IS WORTHY OF HIS SUPPORT.**

11 **AND WHATEVER CITY OR VILLAGE YOU ENTER, INQUIRE WHO IS WORTHY IN IT, AND STAY AT HIS HOUSE UNTIL YOU LEAVE THAT CITY.**

12 **AS YOU ENTER THE HOUSE, GIVE IT YOUR GREETING.**

13 **IF THE HOUSE IS WORTHY, GIVE IT YOUR BLESSING OF PEACE. BUT IF IT IS NOT WORTHY, TAKE BACK YOUR BLESSING OF PEACE.**

14 **WHOEVER DOES NOT RECEIVE YOU, NOR HEED YOUR WORDS, AS YOU GO OUT OF THAT HOUSE OR THAT CITY, SHAKE THE DUST OFF YOUR FEET.**

15 TRULY I SAY TO YOU, IT WILL BE MORE TOLERABLE FOR THE LAND OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT THAN FOR THAT CITY.

16 BEHOLD, I SEND YOU OUT AS SHEEP IN THE MIDST OF WOLVES; SO BE SHREWD AS SERPENTS AND INNOCENT AS DOVES.

17 BUT BEWARE OF MEN, FOR THEY WILL HAND YOU OVER TO THE COURTS AND SCOURGE YOU IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES;

18 AND YOU WILL EVEN BE BROUGHT BEFORE GOVERNORS AND KINGS FOR MY SAKE, AS A TESTIMONY TO THEM AND TO THE GENTILES.

John 6:24-27 NASB

24 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus.

25 When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"

26 Jesus answered them and said, "**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, YOU SEEK ME, NOT BECAUSE YOU SAW SIGNS, BUT BECAUSE YOU ATE OF THE LOAVES AND WERE FILLED.**"

27 "**DO NOT WORK FOR THE FOOD WHICH PERISHES, BUT FOR THE FOOD WHICH ENDURES TO ETERNAL LIFE, WHICH THE SON OF MAN WILL GIVE TO YOU, FOR ON HIM THE FATHER, GOD, HAS SET HIS SEAL.**"

John 6:41-42 NASB

41 **THEREFORE THE JEWS WERE GRUMBLING ABOUT HIM,** because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven."

42 They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?"

John 6:51-52 NASB

51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."

52 **THEN THE JEWS BEGAN TO ARGUE WITH ONE ANOTHER, SAYING, "HOW CAN THIS MAN GIVE US HIS FLESH TO EAT?"**

John 6:59-60 NASB

59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

60 **THEREFORE MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES, WHEN THEY HEARD THIS SAID, "THIS IS A DIFFICULT STATEMENT; WHO CAN LISTEN TO IT?"**

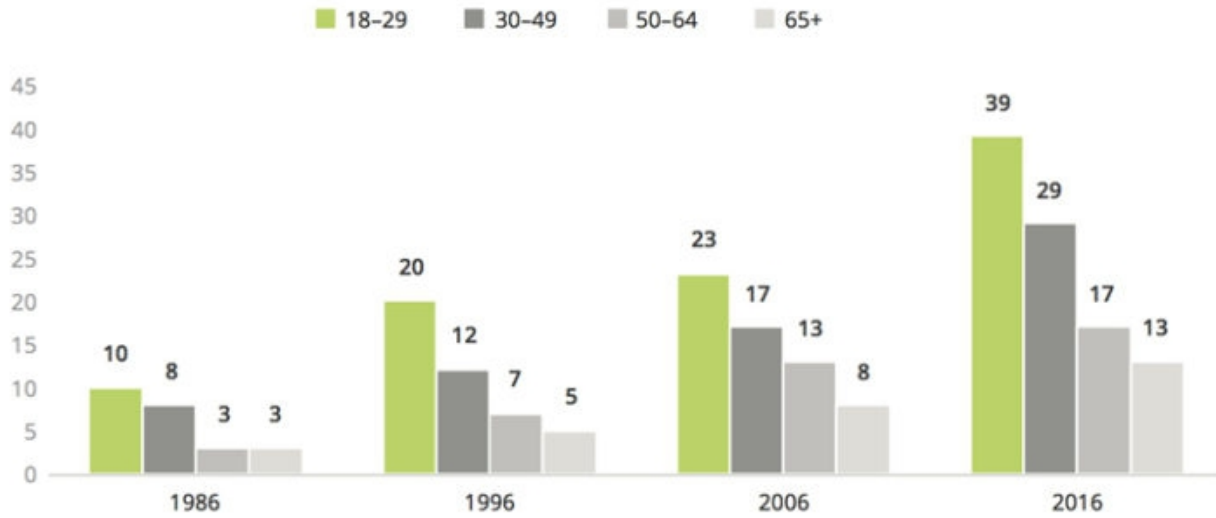
John 6:65-66 NASB

65 And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

66 **AS A RESULT OF THIS MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES WITHDREW AND WERE NOT WALKING WITH HIM ANYMORE.**

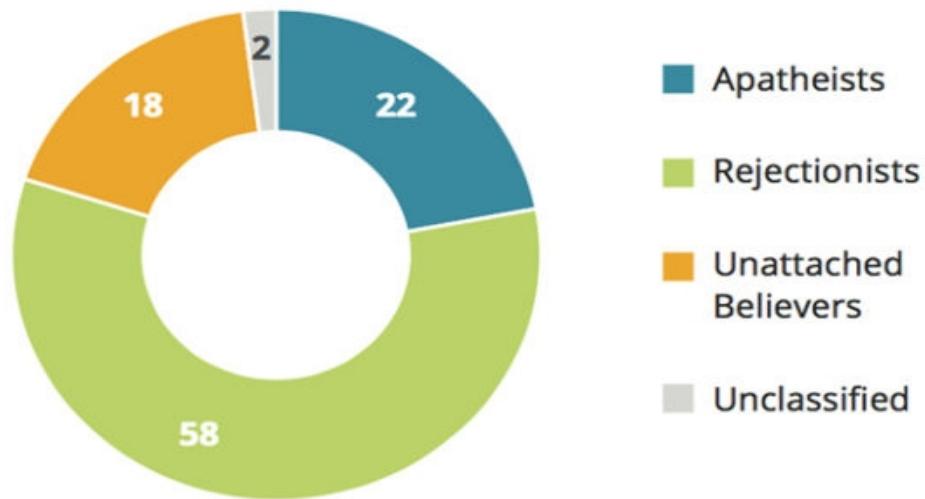
More Young Adults are Unaffiliated than in the Past

Percent of each age group who are religiously unaffiliated, 1986-2016



Sources: General Social Survey, 1986, 1996, 2006; PRRI/RNS August 2016 Survey

Three Subgroups Within the Religiously Unaffiliated



PRRI/RNS August 2016 Survey.