



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

March 2, 2025

“The Beatitudes: Mercy 5:7”

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.” (NRSVUE)

“God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” (NLT)

“You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.” (MSG)

Remember childhood games of wrestling, arm wrestling, leg wrestling—plain old wrestling—when you tried to make your opponent say "mercy"? The match wasn't over until one person, pinned and powerless, cried out for relief. The funny thing is, the other person had all the power in that moment. They could keep holding on, pressing down, proving their strength. Or they could let go. Show mercy. Is there a difference between worldly mercy and God's mercy?

Jesus says the merciful are blessed. Not because mercy is easy, but because it reflects the very heart of God. Mercy in Scripture isn't just about letting someone off the hook—it's about forgiveness and compassion. Psalm 18:25 says, “With the merciful, you show yourself merciful.” Mercy is not situational; it is a way of life, an essential part of being a disciple of Jesus.

And the promise? "For they will receive mercy." Not from people necessarily—because let's be honest, mercy is not always returned in kind—but from God. The same idea is found in the Lord's Prayer: “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Matthew 6:12). Mercy received is mercy given. Jesus makes it clear: those who extend grace, who choose compassion over retaliation, who live with an open hand instead of a clenched fist—these are the ones who will experience the mercy of God, now and in the life to come.



In a world that often demands payback, mercy is a radical act. But for those who follow Jesus, it is not optional. It is a way of being, shaped by the One who forgave even from the cross. Mercy is not weakness. It is strength, held lightly, and given freely.

- God's Peace, Vance

Prayer box: let us pray for the souls of our departed friends and family members and those who mourn for them. Let us pray for comfort and healing for Connie, Diane M., Patti, Holland, Steve, John H., Debbie, Brenda, John P., Lynn and Maggie. Lord, hear our prayers!