



The Forgiveness Choice

Matthew 5:7 & Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon Series: Life's Healing
Choices



Matthew 5:7 (NIV)

- *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*
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Introduction

- Week 1: **The Reality Choice**
- Realize I'm not God and I don't have the power to control my sinful tendencies.

- Week 2: **The Hope Choice**
- To earnestly believe that God exists, that He loves me and He alone can change me.



Introduction (cont'd)

- Week 3- **The Commitment Choice**
- I commit/surrender everything in my life to God.

- Week 4- **The Forgiveness Choice**
- To consciously choose to forgive those who hurt me and demonstrate it through my life.



I. The Definition: Forgiveness in action.

- Mercy is not sentimental feelings or being sorry for someone.
- Mercy is not just kindness or getting justice.
- The word Jesus uses for mercy is "eleos," which describes an attribute of God.

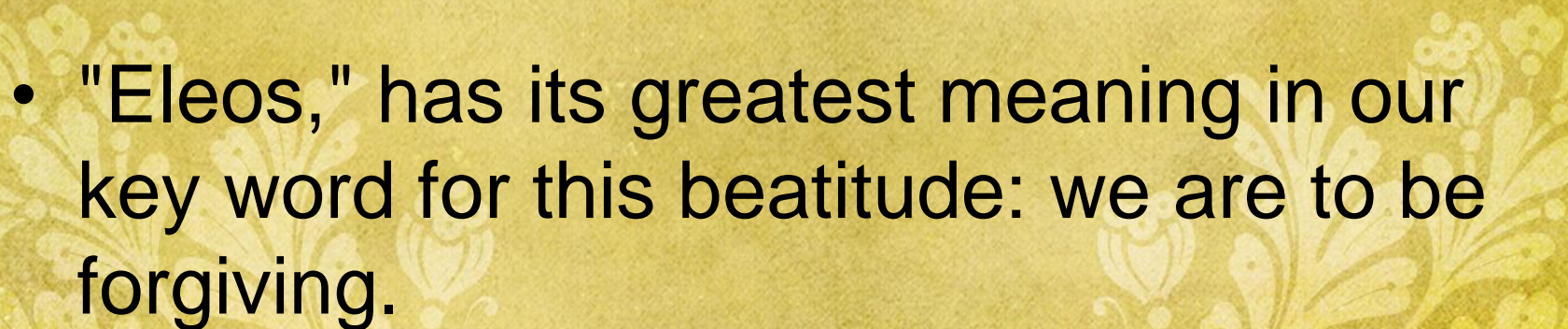


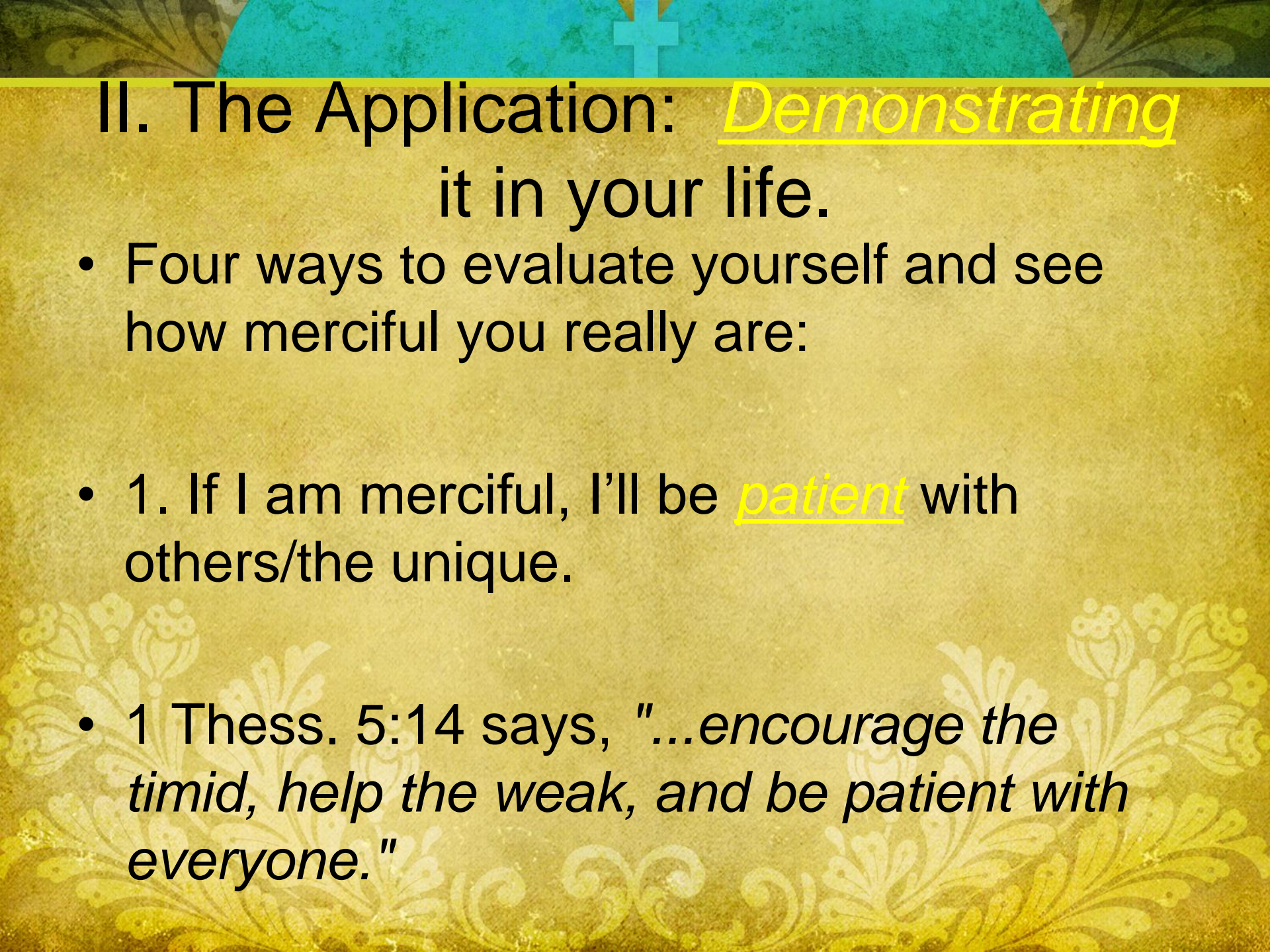
The Definition (cont'd)

- God is said to be *"rich in mercy"* (Eph.2:4)
- Titus 3:5 tells us that we are saved by His mercy.
- And Peter tells us that: *"In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope..."* (1 Peter 1:3).



The Definition (cont'd)

- “Eleos,” in its root carries the meaning, “to wash over.”
 - Mercy is an action, not a reaction.
 - “Eleos,” has its greatest meaning in our key word for this beatitude: we are to be forgiving.
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II. The Application: Demonstrating it in your life.

- Four ways to evaluate yourself and see how merciful you really are:
 - 1. If I am merciful, I'll be patient with others/the unique.
 - 1 Thess. 5:14 says, "*...encourage the timid, help the weak, and be patient with everyone.*"

The Application (cont'd)

- Rom. 15:7- *"accept one another in the Lord, as Christ has accepted you."*
- 2. If I am merciful, I'll forgive those who have fallen.
- Col. 3:13 (LB), *"Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."*

The Application (cont'd)


- 3. If I'm a merciful person, I'll help those who are hurting.
- Prov. 3:27 (NIV)- *"Do not withhold good from those who need it, when it is in your power to act."*

The Application (cont'd)

- 1 John 3:17-18 (GW): *"Now, suppose a person had enough to live on and notices another in need. How can God's love be in that person if he doesn't bother to help? Dear children, we must show love through actions, not through empty words."*
- Gal. 6:10 (NIV), *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people..."*

The Application (cont'd)

- 4. If I am merciful, I'll do good to my enemies.
- Luke 6:33, 35 (NIV), *And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.* ³⁴ *And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you?*



Luke 6:34-35 (NIV)

- *Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.*

The Application (cont'd)

- Rom. 12:17-21 (NIV)- *"Do not repay anyone evil for evil... do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'it is Mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good."*

The Application (cont'd)

- Do you know the best way to destroy an enemy? Make him your friend.
- So, how do we apply this beatitude?
- 1) *God is merciful to me, so I must merciful to others.*

Matthew 18:23-25 (NIV)

- *“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.”*

Matthew 18:26-29 (NIV)

- ²⁶ *“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’* ²⁷ *The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.*
- ²⁸ *“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.*

The Application (cont'd)

- ²⁹ *“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’*
- 2nd motivator in giving mercy is understanding *I will need mercy from God and someone in the future.*

III. The Satisfaction: The Boomerang Principle

- And that, says Jesus, is the satisfaction part of this beatitude. *“Blessed are those who are merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”*
- In other words, “what goes around, comes around.”

The Boomerang Principle (cont'd)

- Matthew 18:35, *"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."*
- Matthew 6:15 (NLT), *"If you refuse to forgive others, your Father in heaven will not forgive your sins."*

The Boomerang Principle (cont'd)

- Prov. 11:17 says: "*The merciful man helps himself.*"
- When we're merciful, we enjoy God's mercy.
- Forgiving others allows you to forgive yourself and remember how much mercy God has shown you.



Invitation

