



Connect Notes – 7 October 2015

## BEAUTIFUL ATTITUDES - MERCIFUL

- Ps Phil Pringle

*'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.'*

**Matthew 5:7 (NKJV)**

After Jesus spoke of hungering and thirsting for righteousness, He followed it with encouragement to be merciful.

- When we get a little righteousness in our lives, we face a crossroads in our attitude: we can become self-righteous and use our righteousness to judge others or we can show mercy.
- It's no accident that Jesus put them in that order: He wanted us to choose mercy.

The religious leaders were judgemental, negative and used the "moral high ground" to look down on people; some people believe that if God came to Earth, that's how He would act.

- But Jesus wasn't like that at all: He came not to judge but to save (John 3:17, 8:15 & 12:47). So let's occupy the high ground of mercy.

The thing about mercy is that we all want it shown to us at some point; it is pointless to assume that you will never make a mistake in life.

- We need to make sure that we have shown mercy, not judgement to others so that when we mess up, mercy is shown to us (James 2:13).

Mercy is often covering over someone's mistake, not spreading the gossip.

- Jesus said He would cover our transgressions and so should we (Romans 2:1).
- Repeatedly condemning someone creates a negative emotional attachment in our brain to the very thing we dislike, why dwell on it?

Bless others and don't curse them, but also don't have a blind spot when it comes to how you behave (Matthew 7:1-3).

- Those who judge often genuinely believe they are doing something great for God. But God does not destroy – that's the other guy - so neither should we.

Lastly, have mercy for yourself; accept that you will make mistakes in life but that God's mercy is new every morning (Lamentations 3:21-23).

- God will never give up on you and He has compassion on your future.
- The Bible has so many stories of God's mercy in rewriting the stories of people of faith. When you

are reminded of your mistakes recall God's mercy and have hope.

- Remember the story of David showing mercy to the last survivor of Saul's family, restoring his fortunes, as well as Ruth and Naomi who had all that was lost restored when they came back to Judah.

#### TALK ABOUT

- \* How does a belief in whether God is merciful or judgmental influence how people behave?
  - \* What does our society think of mercy?
  - \* What can we do this week to show mercy?
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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### CHRISTIAN ESSENTIALS

Whether you have been a Christian for a while, have recently made a decision to follow Jesus Christ or are wondering what Christianity and Church is all about, we welcome you to join us at our Christian Essentials Course.

Commencement Date for Oxford Falls Term 4: **Tuesday 13th, October.**

To register, please email: [essentials@myc3church.net](mailto:essentials@myc3church.net)

##### CALLING ALL MASTERCHEFS

Have you ever thought how nice it would be to cook a meal for someone in our Church who is need? Our Volunteers Manager Jane McCahon would love to hear from you, please email her at [Jane.McCahon@myc3church.net](mailto:Jane.McCahon@myc3church.net).

When a need arises, we will email everyone who has expressed an interest, to see who would be able to cook a meal and include instructions (where to leave the meal, what to cook etc).

*But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 1 John 3:17*

##### C3 CHURCH SYDNEY PRAYER MEETINGS

Each week our locations are gathering together across the City, humbling themselves and lifting up Sydney to God. We would love for you to join us on these powerful nights.

**OXFORD FALLS** / 7-8pm, every Tuesday

**PENRITH** / 7-8pm, every Tuesday

**ROZELLE** / 7-8pm, every Tuesday

**SILVERWATER** / 7-8pm 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month

##### OXFORD FALLS PRAYER AND WORSHIP GATHERINGS

Prayer and Worship Meeting held **every Wednesday** evening in the **Prayer Chapel** from **7.30pm - 8.30pm.**

The Prayer Chapel will also be open from **6pm - Midnight** on the **last Friday of every Month** for worship and prayer.

Both gatherings will be led by Minister of Prayer Heidi Wysman.