**Elmbrook Discussion Questions**

***Who Are You Becoming?* Matthew 5:7 Mercy Matters**

**Introduction**

1. Where does mercy come from?

**Head: *What is the passage saying?***

1. Read Matthew 5:7, *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*
   1. How does this beatitude relate to the previous beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-6)?
   2. Have you seen, or experienced, an act of mercy that lead to more mercy?
   3. Not everyone who is merciful receives mercy in return, including Jesus. What then does Jesus mean?
2. Read Luke 10:25-28.
   1. What is happening in the passage?
   2. What does Jesus want the “expert of the law” to understand?
3. Read Luke 10:30-37.
   1. From this parable, what do we learn about God?
   2. What do we learn about people?
   3. How do we see a merciful person described in this passage?

**Heart: *How does this passage influence my inner being?***

1. What is the relationship between human mercy and God’s mercy? Why do we need both?
2. What have been some risks you have taken to show mercy to another person?
3. Is there someone that God is calling you, or maybe your Life Group, to “neighbor”?
4. What does God want you to learn about mercy?

**Hands: *How do I practically live this out?***

*Here are some suggestions, or identify your own practical next step.*

1. **Serve:** Find a practical way to show mercy to someone in need this week. Ask God to place someone in your path who you can “neighbor”. It may include putting your hands to work, reaching out and offering encouragement, or anything in between.
2. **Journal:** Take some time this week to journal about how you have received mercy. As you reflect use words of thankfulness and gratitude.
3. **Talk it Out:** Go deeper into relationships, and share with someone else how you are growing in receiving and giving mercy.

**Digging Deeper Study**:

1. **Watch:** Learn about the book of Matthew: [Matthew Part1](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/181310?episode=41) (The Bible Project) on [Rightnow Media](http://www.elmbrook.org/media/rightnow-media//?nav=p-703820&clickpath=&wildcard=/).
2. **Bible Study:** Take up a study guide on [The Beatitudes](https://www.ivpress.com/the-beatitudes-jsbs), or read a helpful [commentary on the Sermon on the Mount](https://www.ivpress.com/Search?q=sermon+on+the+mount) (The Bible Speaks Today series).
3. **Read a book:** [Momentum](https://www.moodypublishers.com/momentum-8ec17540/): *Pursuing God’s Blessings Through the Beatitudes* by Colin Smith, [The Blessing of Humility](https://www.navpress.com//p/the-blessing-of-humility/9781631466236) by Jerry Bridges.