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**Independence Campus  
- Fall Gathering -**  
For anyone planning or considering coming to this new campus, join us on **Oct 28** at **Memorial Park**. Please invite your friends and neighbors in the Independence area!



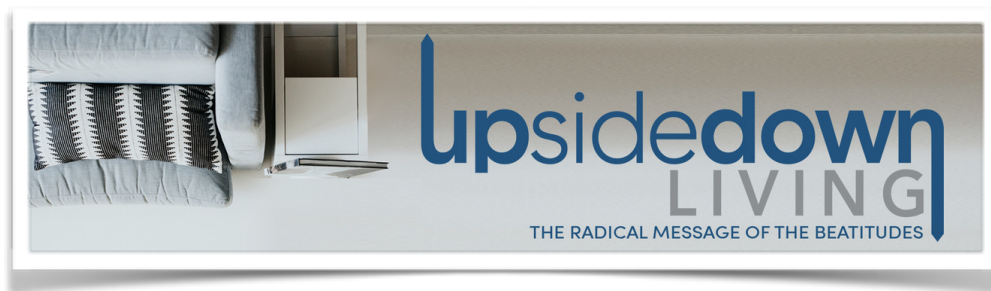
**Worship Team Auditions  
- Sat, Nov 3 -**  
We're getting ready to hold Worship Team Auditions and we wanna hear what you've got! Get the process started by completing an application @ [graceky.org/worship-team](http://graceky.org/worship-team)



**Grace for You  
- Membership Class -**  
If you're ready to explore if membership at GFC is right for you, join us for Grace for You. Dinner provided!  
**Sunday, Nov 4 | 5-9pm**



**Worship & Prayer Night**  
On **Nov 15**, let's spend an evening **giving thanks to the Lord** together! GraceKids worship & childcare offered for ages 10 & younger. Register your kiddos by Sun, Nov 11 @ [graceky.org/events](http://graceky.org/events)



***Blessed Are The Merciful  
Matthew 5:7***

*Pastor Peter LaRuffa  
October 21, 2018*

1. **Kingdom people are not impressed with their righteousness or accomplishments.**

**Matt. 5:7** "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

**Mark 2:17** "And when Jesus heard it, he said to them 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.'"

The Kingdom is not for those who read their own resume and are proud of what they see. Rather, the Kingdom is for those who have a perpetual sense of need that can only be met by King Jesus.

**What about *you*?** Resume reading leads to a lot of self-focus. How have you seen that to be true for you? When you read your own resume, do you leave feeling self-righteous? Do you feel condemned?

2. **Kingdom people have received mercy and are willing to give it.**

**5 Reasons We Tend to Be Reluctant to Show Mercy**

- (a) **We love meting out justice** instead of showing mercy (**Mic. 6:8**).
- (b) **We love keeping score** (**Matt. 5:38-42; Matt. 7:2**).
- (c) **We love to "look good,"** and hate to feel foolish (**1 Cor. 4:10**).

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- (d) **We love to deal with matters on our own**, and don't trust God's justice to be the ultimate, perfect dispenser of justice for all (**Rom. 2:6ff**).
- (e) **We love ROI**, and don't know if showing mercy will pay off now or ever (**John 8:10,11**).

***Forgiven people forgive people.***

**Matt. 6:12,14,15** "...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors...For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

**Matt. 18:33** "And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?"

**Eph. 4:31,32** "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**"

**Col. 3:13** "bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; **as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive.**"

**What about you?** Which one(s) of the reasons we're reluctant to show mercy resonate with you? What other reason would you add to that list? Does Christ's forgiveness of you motivate you to show mercy to others? Why or why not?

**3. Kingdom people are aware of those who are hurting, and do acts of mercy & compassion in response.**

**Matt. 18:33** "'Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' And Jesus said to him, 'You go, and do likewise.'"

When Kingdom people show mercy to those who are hurting, we paint a small picture of what King Jesus did for us.

**4. Kingdom people are merciful because they receive God's mercies anew each and every day!**

**Matt. 5:7** "Blessed are the merciful, **for they shall receive mercy.**"

**Lam. 3:22** "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in Him.'"

**Psa. 90:14** "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days."

**Heb. 4:16** "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

**Questions for Community Group and/or Personal Application:**

- (1) Who comes to mind when you think of a merciful Kingdom person?
- (2) Are you a merciful person? Why did you answer the way you did?
- (3) Pastor Peter said "When Kingdom people show mercy to those who are hurting, we paint a small picture of what King Jesus did for us." How might you paint that picture this week?
- (4) Name someone who is in need of mercy. Name someone you can show compassion to that you ordinarily overlooked. How can you be merciful towards them, and paint a small picture of what the mercy of God is like?