

**Life Group Notes for
Week Beginning 25th February 2024
Against the Flow: Blessed are the Grace Filled
Matthew 5:7**

- Have you ever been in a queue for ages, and then saw someone 'push in'?
How did you feel and what did you do?
- Have you ever been the person pushing in!
- In the previous 4 beatitudes, is there one that resonates with you in particular? (Matthew 5:3-6)

Read Acts 7:55-60, and Matthew 5:7

- What to you is the difference between mercy and grace? (Hebrews 4:16; Ephesians 2:4-5; Romans 9:15; Psalm 23:6)
- Thinking of Stephen, discuss this Billy Graham quote: 'To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to be under the influence or control of the Holy Spirit of God. It is not a feeling or an emotional experience, but rather, the yielding (abandoning) of the believer's life to the Lord. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is an indispensable requirement'.

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-16, and Matthew 5:7 again

- In Paul's confession here, he says he acted in ignorance and unbelief – for which he was shown mercy. Think seriously about this – would you show mercy if he came to our church today? Why or why not?

- Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
 - How can we help people we know who are trapped in sin, avoiding criticising them or acting superior. Sexual sin; pornography; stealing; gossiping etc.
 - Both as individuals and as a church, how can we be merciful by showing compassion to people?
 - Is there anyone that YOU need to forgive (be merciful to)? Or is there someone you need to apologise to?

- Think of someone you can show compassion to today – then go and do it!