



**Blessed
Are the
Merciful**

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Walking into a Merciless Zone

There are many merciless zone in life and we learn lessons the “hard way”. Here are a few examples

- You plagiarize on a test and....
- You tried to take a short cut at work by phone and...
- You start an “innocent chat” with a p
- You start to speed because you want quickly and....
- You yield to peer pressure and take o
- You get in a fight and hit someone and



Walking into a Merciless Zone

Mercy was not an “acceptable word” in the ancient world.

It was a sign of weakness; You are not a real man.

The Romans judged everything by discipline and
absolute power. There was no room for mercy.

A Roman father had the right of Patria Potestas.

A “thumbs up” – meant life, or a “thumbs down”
and the child was immediately drowned.

Citizens had the same power over their slaves.
killed and buried with no fear of arrest or punishment.



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Walking into a Merciless Zone

Wives lived in fear of their husbands. Any provocation, no matter how small, could mean banishment or death.

Generally, societies that despise mercy are brutal.

The motive of self-concern is what characterizes a society that lacks mercy; how will I look.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be



Mercy was scarce

Showing mercy was one of the least practiced virtues.

The law was: “An Eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”
“Survival of the fittest”.

Not only did they lack mercy, but some even showed no mercy.

They saw mercy as an “exchange program” that was reciprocated.

Jesus condemned this practice later in His



Mercy was scarce

Matthew 5:43-47

You have heard that it was said, 'Love
hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love
pray for those who persecute you, to
your Father in heaven. He causes He
and the good and sends rain on the
unrighteous. If you love those who
will you get? Are not even the tax
And if you greet only your brothers
more than others? Do not even pag



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Our Focus....

Let us focus on three basic
mercy.

- 1) What it is: M
- 2) Where it comes from
- 3) How it is manifested



1. Mercy Defined

Mercy is the outward expression of pity toward a person in need and using one's resources to meet that need

Eph. 2:5 “God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive when we were dead in transgressions—saved.”

Mercy is also not giving someone what

When Jesus said blessed are the merciful
merciful and you will receive mercy from



1. The meaning of Mercy

Jesus was the most merciful man who ever lived. He reached out to the poor, sick, children, aged, sinners, etc. to everyone. He was mercy in the flesh. Yet why did you not go to Jesus' mercy?

The more He showed mercy....

- The more the religious leaders wanted
- The more He was slandered and despised
- The more He was rejected.



1. The meaning of Mercy

The ultimate outcome of His mercy was the Cross. In Jesus crucifixion, two merciless systems (merciless government and merciless religion) came together to destroy mercy. Why – because their idea of mercy was of the wrong kind.

Yet Jesus wanted His disciples and us to have our resources to meet that need, regardless of the cost not.

This beatitude doesn't teach that being merciful is about receiving mercy from men, but that mercy to men is about our appreciation of the mercy we have received from God.



God is Mercy....

It further demonstrates that we have come to know who God really and that we have come to understand

His heart is filled with Mercy for human
display of His just wrath and cosmic power
He is.

What sets Him apart is Mercy and taking
panorama.



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Moses saw Mercy—it can be seen!

After Moses asked God to show him His glory, God answers, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will (Exodus 33:19).

When asked to show His glory, God put mercy on display.

God’s mercy to Israel and not Egypt was not based on merit and earning. Rather, He is utterly free to do as He will — He chose Israel and decided on you.



Moses saw Mercy—it can be seen!

Read Exodus 34:6-7

God is not unjust; by no means will he clear under the rug. But the leading revelation

The first and greatest truth to know about
and gracious God.” His grace and mercy
glory. He is “slow to anger” — he will s

Even when dispensing justice, He is slow
His righteous response to evil, but it is not
stem; mercy is the flower.



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David preferred Mercy---It's the best option

He began his song of confession, Psalm 51, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions" (Psalm 51:1).

Later, when David recognized his sin against God and his people, the prophet Gad gave him **three**

"Shall three years of famine come to you, or shall you flee three months before your foes, or shall there be three days' pestilence in your



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David preferred Mercy: It's the best option

(2 Samuel 24:13). David had glimpsed the heart of God, and he knew where to fall:

“Let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for
me not fall into the hand of man” (2 Sam



Jeremiah wept for Mercy: It should be desired

Generations after David, Israel fell into a spiral of moral decline. In 587 BC the Babylonians besieged, conquered Jerusalem. It was the most tragic and horrible event in Jewish history. The city was so famished and desperate that they ate their own babies (Lamentations 4:10).

During this time, Jeremiah penned the book in all the Bible: Lamentations. Ch. lament, where the pain is most exposed. Yet even here, faith shines forth as it goes into the heart of God.



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Jeremiah wept for Mercy: It should be desired

Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! My soul continually remembers it and is bitter within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore my heart is not brought down; for the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies are an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness, O Lord, my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will not despair." (Lamentations 3:19–24).

In the very time and the very place where we are most tempted to abandon hope, the promise of God, never ceasing and new every day,



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Paul Marveled at Mercy: It is mesmerizing

In the fullness of time, God sent Jesus to embody mercy. Jesus is the Mercy of God made human. He didn't just tell people about God's mercy in their lives (Matthew 5:7; 10:37), but He Himself was, and is, the mercy.

Fittingly, the most prominent request made by Jesus' followers was, "Have mercy on me!" (Matthew 9:27; 10:47–48; Luke 16:24; 17:13).

That's what He did in His life, sacrificial resurrection.



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Paul Marvelled at Mercy: It is mesmerizing

The apostle Paul, who received his ministry because of God's mercy (1 Cor. 7:25; 2 Cor. 4:1), became the instrument of God's revelation. What Moses saw, David preferred, and what Paul saw on the other side of Christ,

Paul gives us the clearest vantage into, God "who has mercy" — literally, the merciful God.

Romans 9:22–23 tells us why God governs the world as He does. Paul puts it in the form of a rhetorical question that is sobering to contemplate.



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II. The Source of Mercy--God

Mercy is meeting people's needs. It is not simply feeling compassion, but showing compassion; giving a helping hand. Mercy is...

- Giving food to the hungry or comfort to the sorrowful
- Loving the rejected or forgiving the offender
- Being a companion to the lonely

Mercy is a gift from God.

Mercy is not a natural attribute of man. It is only through our new birth in Christ. We can only be merciful with the right motive, when we've exper



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II. The Source of Mercy

Realizing I am spiritual poor brings me to the point of humility where I must say I need God and I need you. This leads to repentance as I am aware of my brokenness and cry. In submission, I become meek. I and thirst for God's righteousness and holiness. Thus, "poorness, mourning, meekness" empowered by the Holy Spirit.

When we take on God's nature, we can read of Jesus in Luke's gospel, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36)



II. The Source of Mercy

We are blessed by God when we are merciful to others, and we are able to be merciful because we have already received God's mercy.

Hymn – Mercy there was great and free
multiplied to me, there my burdened soul

God is the source of our mercy – given
conditions; therefore, we are to be merciful
just as God was merciful to us.



III. The Practice of Mercy

Remember the definition of mercy, “The outward expression of pity toward a person in need and using one’s resources to meet that need.”

Mercy must be expressed in vital areas to feel for someone. That feeling should be in terms.

For mercy to be true mercy is must be in....



III. The Practice of Mercy

A. In Physical Ways

The most popular parable Jesus ever told was the Good Samaritan.

Jesus specifically commanded us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, and help as needed (Matt. 25:35-40)

God's idea of mercy was not just a NT concept regarding mercy. Let us together Read

Just as mercy is part of God's DNA for us, so is it part of our DNA toward others.



III. The Practice of Mercy

B. In Practical Ways

Financially – demonstrate mercy toward or helping people in financial crisis; at times other times being a financial mentor.

Encouragement – Up someone up who Visit and prayer with/for them.

Career development – Share your experience with ministers of mercy!



III. The Practice of Mercy

C. In demonstrating the right Attitudes

Mercy does not hold a grudge, harbor resentment, or dwell on another's failure or weakness. The words of the

- ❖ I told you so.
- ❖ I knew you would disappoint me.
- ❖ I expected you to let me down.

A hard heart and an unforgiving spirit demon

Jesus illustrates the wrong attitude regarding
Matthew 18:21-35.



III. The Practice of Mercy

Matthew 18:32-35, "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger he sent the jailers to be tortured, until he should come and settle with them. So learn from this, how my heavenly Father will treat each of you who does not forgive your brother from your heart."

In practicing mercy, we are able to say

We can only practice mercy when we help one another.



III. The Practice of Mercy

D. Through our Prayer life.

The spiritual merciful act of praying for those Christians who are walking in disobedience.

Our mercy can be measured by our prayer for erring brothers and sisters.

For if God's word is true, and there is blessing for all mankind, then we must pray for those who are in His ways and pray for those who were in



III. The Practice of Mercy

E. By proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

What if someone had not taken the time
us? Where would we be in life and in our

Lives are changed when we practice mercy

Don't tell me Jesus loves me....show me



And So What

I. We need to be constantly reminded of what Mercy is: Outward expression of pity and helping to alleviate the need

Mercy should be:

- Seen, as Moses saw it.
- Preferred, as David knew it was the
- Wept for, as Jeremiah deeply desired
- Marveled at, as Apostle Paul was so



And So What

II. We need to know that the Source of Mercy is God. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It grows in us as we grow in our knowledge of God and what He has done for us.

III. We need to practice Mercy:

- Physically
- Practically
- By demonstrating the right Attitude
- By praying for others (unsaved, backslidden)
- By sharing our faith

