

**Message from God's Life-Giving Word**  
February 10, 2019  
**Journey with Jesus – Jesus and Mercy**

Who do you struggle with that is different from you?

*It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But **go and learn** what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*  
Matthew 9:13

*Once you were not a people, but now you are **God's people**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have **received mercy**.* 1 Peter 2:10

Notes on the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21-35):

What can mercy look like in our lives? How much is enough?

Are you a merciful person? Why or why not?

*Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.* (Luke 6:36)

***Next Steps***

1. Journal the following: Have you ever needed mercy? If so, what was it like for you? Explore the differences between a “big” need for mercy and something smaller.
  2. Read Matthew 18:21-35. How are the two situations the same? How are they different? Consider the differences in the needs for mercy between the two men? Personalize it: Who is the King/Master? Who is the main servant? The secondary? According to this parable, what is required of you in your relationships? Why?
  3. How hard is it for you to be merciful and forgiving? What situations are easier for you? Harder? Why? How can you stretch your faith this week and extend mercy to someone who does not deserve it?
- REMEMBER:** Your time in daily devotion and prayer is not just for your benefit. It's also for the benefit of others. Share what God is teaching you.