

As We Have Received Mercy, Let Us Be Merciful

“My God of mercy shall come to meet me; God shall let me see my desire on my enemies. To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; For God is my defense, My God of mercy” (Psalm 59:10, 17).

What Is Mercy?

- Mercy and grace are not the same thing, even though often found together
 - Grace is God's provision when one does not deserve it
 - Grace is God's blessing for one who cannot earn it
 - Grace is giving something positive when there is no reason to expect it

What Is Mercy?

- Mercy is different than grace
 - While it does result in positive blessings from God, it is the negative perspective of God's actions toward us
 - Mercy is God not giving us what we do deserve
 - Mercy is God withholding from us what we have earned

What Is Mercy?

- Mercy is the necessary balance to righteousness
 - God is righteous, but if He were only righteousness, He would be hard, demanding, and impossible for man to approach
 - Mercy mitigates righteousness with compassion and understanding
 - Righteousness is based on truth, and although mercy never contradicts the truth, it balances the absolute requirements of justice by acknowledging human limitations and Divine compassion
 - Mercy is the imperative “thou shalt not,” tempered by the supplication of Calvary saying “Father, forgive them.”

What Is Mercy?

- "Mercy among the virtues is like the moon among the stars -- not so sparkling and vivid as many, but dispensing a calm radiance that hallows the whole. It is the bow that rests upon the bosom of the cloud when the storm is past. It is the light that hovers above the judgment seat" (*Edwin Hubbell Chapin; The Encyclopedia of Religious Quotations*).

What Is Mercy?

- Appears 269 times in the Old and New Testaments
- Webster defines mercy as “1. A refraining from harming or punishing offenders, enemies, persons in one's power, etc.; kindness in excess of what may be expected or demanded by fairness; forbearance and compassion; 2. imprisonment rather than the death penalty imposed on those found guilty of capital crimes; 3. a disposition to forgive, pity, or be kind; 4. the power to forgive or to be kind; clemency (to throw oneself on the 'mercy' of the court); 5. kind or compassionate treatment; relief of suffering; 6. a fortunate thing; thing to be grateful for; blessing”

What Is Mercy?

- Mercy defines God's attitude toward man. It is an expression of His love for humanity. It includes pity, compassion, gentleness and forbearance
- Hebrew “hesed” - translated "mercy," but at times it is also rendered "kindness, loving kindness, and goodness."
- Denotes God's steadfast love, tenderly demonstrated by His covenant faithfulness with His chosen people

What Is Mercy?

- Greek “eleos” - “the outward manifestation of pity; it assumes need on the part of him who receives it, and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it.”
- “Oiktirmos” - “pity and compassion for the ills of others.”

What Is Mercy?

- “Grace is related to sin while mercy is related to the misery that sin brings. Divine grace removes our guilt, while Divine mercy removes our misery.” *(Richard Trench, Synonyms of the New Testament)*
- Mercy is an expression of God's love toward those in need
 - 2Cor. 1:3 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort”

What Is Mercy?

- “Although man is unworthy and undeserving, yet God shows forbearance and mercy. He helps the helpless; he succors the afflicted; he lifts up the distressed. To sinners who are miserable, wretched and guilty, he offers solace and pardon.” (Mark Mayberry)

What Does The Bible Teach About Mercy?

- Mercy is an essential part of the character and nature of God
 - Deut. 7:9 - “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments”
 - 1Chron. 16:34 - “Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”
 - Joel 2:13 - “So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.”

What Does The Bible Teach About Mercy?

- Mercy empowers God to be sensitive to man's distress
 - Psalm 4:1 - "Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer."
 - Psalm 9:13 - "Have mercy on me, O LORD! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death"
- Remove mercy, and the only thing that remains is the righteous requirements of Law
 - Without mercy, grace cannot exist, because grace MUST be preceded by mercy, without exception!

What Does The Bible Teach About Mercy?

- Mercy enables God to defer punishment for sin
 - Psalm 25:7 - “Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.”
 - Psalm 51:1 - “Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.”
- Mercy has more power than the righteous requirements of Law, because mercy can overrule Law

What Does The Bible Teach About Mercy?

- Luke 18:9-14 - “God, be merciful to me a sinner! ... I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other”
- Titus 3:4-5 - “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”

What Does The Bible Teach About Mercy?

- Mercy is the answer to man's hopeless condition
 - Psalm 56:1-2 - "Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; Fighting all day he oppresses me. 2 My enemies would hound me all day, For there are many who fight against me, O Most High."
 - Heb. 4:16 - "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

What Does The Bible Teach About Mercy?

- Mercy exemplified
 - Gen. 19:16 - "And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city."
 - Matt. 15:22 - "And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."
 - Matt. 17:15 - "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water."

What Does The Bible Teach About Mercy?

- Mercy exemplified
 - Luke 10:36-37 - "So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves? 37 And he said, He who showed mercy on him. Then Jesus said to him, Go and do likewise"

Mercy Is A Defining Characteristic Of God

- The mercy of the Lord is great
 - Psalm 145:8 - “The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.”
- The mercy of the Lord is abundant
 - Psalm 86:5, 15 - “For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You... 15 But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.”
- The earth is full of God's mercy
 - Psalm 119:64 - “The earth, O LORD, is full of Your mercy”

Mercy Is A Defining Characteristic Of God

- His mercy reaches to the heavens
 - Psalm 36:5 - “Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.”
- It endures forever
 - Psalm 118:1-4 - “Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. 2 Let Israel now say, His mercy endures forever. 3 Let the house of Aaron now say, His mercy endures forever. 4 Let those who fear the LORD now say, His mercy endures forever.”

Mercy Is An Essential Part Of God's Forgiveness

- Micah 7:18-19 - “Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. 19 He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea.”
- 1Tim. 1:13-16 - “Although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.”

What Does God's Mercy Do For Us?

- Supports us in times of distress
 - Psalm 4:1 - “Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.”
- Supports us in trouble
 - Psalm 59:16 - “But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; For You have been my defense And refuge in the day of my trouble.”
- Supports us in weakness
 - Psalm 6:2 - “Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am weak”

What Does God's Mercy Do For Us?

- Supports us when desolate and afflicted
 - Psalm 25:16 - “Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am desolate and afflicted.”
- Supports us when consumed by grief and trouble
 - Psalm 31:9 - “Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; My eye wastes away with grief, Yes, my soul and my body!”
- Supports us when we face ridicule and contempt
 - Psalm 123:3-4 - “Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us! For we are exceedingly filled with contempt. 4 Our soul is exceedingly filled With the scorn of those who are at ease, With the contempt of the proud.”

What Does God's Mercy Do For Us?

- Supports us when our foot slips
 - Psalm 94:18 - "If I say, My foot slips, Your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up."
- It forms the basis of God's willingness to hear and answer prayer
 - Psalm 27:7 - "Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me."
- It leads to pardon
 - Psalm 51:1-2 - "Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your loving kindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin."

What Does God's Mercy Do For Us?

- It delivers us from destruction
 - Psalm 86:13 - “For great is Your mercy toward me, And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.”
- It is the foundation of our hope of salvation
 - Psalm 130:7 - “O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with the LORD there is mercy, And with Him is abundant redemption.”
- It helps us to trust in God
 - Psalm 52:8 - “But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever.”

God's Mercy Finds Its Best Expression Through Jesus

- Eph. 2:1-7 - “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

God's Mercy Finds Its Best Expression Through Jesus

- Titus. 3:3-7 - “For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

God's Mercy Finds Its Best Expression Through Jesus

- 1Peter 1:3 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”
- Heb. 2:17 - “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

God's Mercy Finds Its Best Expression Through Jesus

- Heb. 4:15-16 - “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”