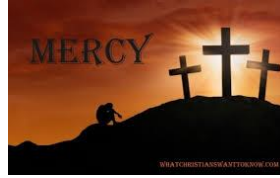




November 27, 2022
Romans 12:6-8



Luke 13- 6-9 He also spoke this parable: “A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’ 8 But he answered and said to him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. 9 And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.’ ”

Introduction: The game of mercy- or wrestling and trying to get the other person to cry uncle!

The Bible kind of mercy is beautiful and is received in spite of the fact that we do not deserve it!

Mercy- not getting something we do deserve

Grace- getting something we don't deserve

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Ill. **People like me and some of you can be annoying!!**

A man does not get grace till he comes down to the ground, till he sees he needs grace. When a man stoops to the dust and acknowledges that he needs mercy, then it is that the Lord will give him grace.

- Dwight L. Moody

Our Savior kneels down and gazes upon the darkest acts of our lives. But rather than recoil in horror, he reaches out in kindness and says, 'I can clean that if you want.' And from the basin of his grace, he scoops a palm full of mercy and washes our sin.

- Max Lucado

God just doesn't throw a life preserver to a drowning person. He goes to the bottom of the sea, and pulls a corpse from the bottom of the sea, takes him up on the bank, breathes into him the breath of life and makes him alive.

- R. C. Sproul

Mercy is what produces, freedom, acceptance, hope and a fulfilled life.

- R. D. Townsend, Sr.

Luke 18-9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ ¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

- **We all want mercy and then we turn around and not want others to have mercy! That's horrible!**

Matthew 18- The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. 26 The servant therefore

fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ 27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. 28 “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ 29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ 30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. 32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. 35 “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

What is the spiritual gift of mercy?

ἐλεέω eleéō el-eh-eh'-o; compassionate (by word or deed, specially, by divine grace):—have compassion (pity on), have (obtain, receive, shew) mercy (on).

Mercy: A Spiritual Gift- a supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit to members of His body.

In Jesus’ [Sermon on the Mount](#), one of the [Beatitudes](#) is “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy” ([Matthew 5:7](#)). **Mercy is what we express when we are led by God to be compassionate in our attitudes, words, and actions. It is more than feeling sympathy toward someone; it is love enacted.** Mercy desires to answer the immediate needs of others and alleviate suffering, loneliness, and grief. Mercy addresses physical, emotional, financial, or spiritual crises with generous, self-sacrificial service. Mercy is a champion of the lowly, poor, exploited, and forgotten and often acts on their behalf.

A good example of mercy is found in [Matthew 20:29–34](#): “As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, ‘Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!’ The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, ‘Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!’ Jesus stopped and called them. ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ he asked. ‘Lord,’ they answered, ‘we want

our sight.’ Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed Him.” Notice that the blind men associated mercy not with a feeling but with an action. Their physical problem was that they couldn’t see, so to them, the act of mercy was Christ’s intervention to restore their sight. Mercy is more than a feeling; it is always followed by an action.

This gift has a practical application of active service as well as a responsibility to do so cheerfully ([Romans 12:8](#)).

This bedrock understanding that our hope depends on Christ’s mercy alone and not in any merit of ours should inspire us to follow Christ’s example of compassionate service and show mercy to others as it has been shown to us.

Through the motivational gifts, **God makes believers aware of needs that He wants to meet through them**, for His glory. Then, believers can minister to others through the [ministry and manifestation gifts of the Spirit](#), in ways beyond mere human capability and ingenuity, with maximum effectiveness and minimum weariness. Each person’s behavior will vary according to factors such as temperament, background, age, gender, culture, and circumstances.

General Characteristics

A mercy-giver’s **basic motivational drive is to sense and respond to the emotional and spiritual needs of others**. Those with the mercy motivational gift have a divine ability to sense hurt and respond to it with love and understanding.

Strengths

- Mercy-givers are **attracted to people in distress**; they love the people that most of us tend to run away from.
- Mercies **tend to embrace humility**, because of their sensitive spirits and awareness of their own weaknesses and failures.

Weaknesses

- Because mercy-givers try to **avoid conflict of any kind**, they often avoid confrontation that is needed. Mercy-givers would rather hide from or ignore their enemies than confront them, even when they are in authority over those enemies. Delaying the inevitable always leads to more trouble—for everyone.
- It is **easy for mercies to develop a poor self-image**, since they tend to be introspective and remain acutely aware of their own failures. The longer the mercy dwells on his failures, the more worthless and wicked he feels.

5 Vital Reasons to show mercy with cheerfulness

1. Because we have been and are still recipients of mercy- God's mercy

When mercy is shown--mercy is given.

In a small cemetery of a parish churchyard in Olney, England, stands a granite tombstone with this inscription: "John Newton, clerk [pastor], once an infidel & Libertine, a servant of slavers in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the Faith he had long labored to destroy." You may not remember his name, but all of us know the song he wrote as a testimony of his life: "Amazing Grace." (*Source Unknown*).

☐ [Philippians 2:27](#) Epaphroditus

For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy [G1653](#) on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

TOOLS

☐ [1 Timothy 1:13](#)

Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, [G1653](#) because I did [it](#) ignorantly in unbelief.

TOOLS

☐ [1 Timothy 1:16](#)

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, [G1653](#) that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

☐ [1 Peter 2:10](#)

Which in time past [were](#) not a people, but [are](#) now the people of God: which had [G1653](#) → not obtained mercy, [G1653](#) but now have obtained mercy. [G1653](#)

2. Because there are many broken people in our world and in the church.

The 59 "One Anothers" of the New Testament*

1. "...Be at peace with each other." ([Mark 9:50](#))
2. "...Wash one another's feet." ([John 13:14](#))

3. "...Love one another..." ([John 13:34](#))
4. "...Love one another..." ([John 13:34](#))
5. "...Love one another..." ([John 13:35](#))
6. "...Love one another..." ([John 15:12](#))
7. "...Love one another" ([John 15:17](#))
8. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." ([Romans 12:10](#))
9. "...Honor one another above yourselves. ([Romans 12:10](#))
10. "Live in harmony with one another..." ([Romans 12:16](#))
11. "...Love one another..." ([Romans 13:8](#))
12. "...Stop passing judgment on one another." ([Romans 14:13](#))
13. "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." ([Romans 15:7](#))
14. "...Instruct one another." ([Romans 15:14](#))
15. "Greet one another with a holy kiss..." ([Romans 16:16](#))
16. "...When you come together to eat, wait for each other." ([I Cor. 11:33](#))
17. "...Have equal concern for each other." ([I Corinthians 12:25](#))
18. "...Greet one another with a holy kiss." ([I Corinthians 16:20](#))
19. "Greet one another with a holy kiss." ([II Corinthians 13:12](#))
20. "...Serve one another in love." ([Galatians 5:13](#))
21. "If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other." ([Galatians 5:15](#))
22. "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." ([Galatians 5:26](#))
23. "Carry each other's burdens..." ([Galatians 6:2](#))
24. "...Be patient, bearing with one another in love." ([Ephesians 4:2](#))
25. "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." ([Ephesians 4:32](#))
26. "...Forgiving each other..." ([Ephesians 4:32](#))
27. "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." ([Ephesians 5:19](#))
28. "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." ([Ephesians 5:21](#))
29. "...In humility consider others better than yourselves." ([Philippians 2:3](#))
30. "Do not lie to each other..." ([Colossians 3:9](#))
31. "Bear with each other..." ([Colossians 3:13](#))
32. "...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." ([Colossians 3:13](#))
33. "Teach...[one another]" ([Colossians 3:16](#))
34. "...Admonish one another ([Colossians 3:16](#))

35. "...Make your love increase and overflow for each other." (I Thessalonians 3:12)
36. "...Love each other." (I Thessalonians 4:9)
37. "...Encourage each other..."(I Thessalonians 4:18)
38. "...Encourage each other..." I Thessalonians 5:11)
39. "...Build each other up..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)
40. "Encourage one another daily..." Hebrews 3:13)
41. "...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24)
42. "...Encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25)
43. "...Do not slander one another." (James 4:11)
44. "Don't grumble against each other..." (James 5:9)
45. "Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16)
46. "...Pray for each other." (James 5:16)
47. "...Love one another deeply, from the heart." (I Peter 3:8)
48. "...Live in harmony with one another..." (I Peter 3:8)
49. "...Love each other deeply..." (I Peter 4:8)
50. "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." (I Peter 4:9)
51. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." (I Peter 4:10)
52. "...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another..."(I Peter 5:5)
53. "Greet one another with a kiss of love." (I Peter 5:14)
54. "...Love one another." (I John 3:11)
55. "...Love one another." (I John 3:23)
56. "...Love one another." (I John 4:7)
57. "...Love one another." (I John 4:11)
58. "...Love one another." (I John 4:12)
59. "...Love one another." (II John 5)

What makes a person broken?

- ✓ **Circumstances of life**
- ✓ **Discouragement**
- ✓ **Physical issues**
- ✓ **Relational issues**
- ✓ **Not fitting in**
- ✓ **Feelings of inferiority**
- ✓ **Feelings of guilt**

- ✓ **Financial instability**
- ✓ **Marriage issues**
- ✓ **Getting older**
- ✓ **Pain**

It is easy to focus on one thing and be impacted in a negative way as a result.

Example- getting unfriended on FB

3. Because people need encouragement and acceptance

God's mercy to us is the motivation for showing mercy to others. Remember, you will never be asked to forgive someone else more than God has forgiven you.

- Rick Warren

The devil can impact the body of Christ to be the opposite of what God intended His body to be.

Romans 15:5-7- May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

4. Because we are to exemplify cheerfulness- right attitude

There are too many grouches in the church today. Negative in every way.
Ephesians 4:31-32

5. Because we need the mercy of others.

- So many times we are accepted on the basis on our behavior. People tend to put expectations on others that often determine their acceptance of that individual.

A mother once approached Napoleon seeking a pardon for her son. The emperor replied that the young man had committed a certain offense twice and justice demanded death. “But I don’t ask for justice,” the mother explained. “I plead for *mercy*.” “But your son does not deserve *mercy*,” Napoleon replied. “Sir,” the woman cried, “it would not be *mercy* if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask for.” “Well, then,” the emperor said, “I will have *mercy*.” And he spared the woman’s son.