

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Only a God Like You, Your Grace is Enough, All About You, Jesus the Same, Revelation Song

WELCOME

Merciful vs. Merciless. Describe the contrast between a merciful and a merciless person.

WORD

MATTHEW 5:7

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

If you want legit happiness, you should be full of mercy. The Greek word for merciful is 'eleemon.' It means an attitude that is reflective of God's heart. It means having a lifestyle of being compassionate and sympathetic both in thought and in action.

More importantly, however, mercy is acting consistently with the revelation of God's covenant. The whole concept of mercy can be seen in the very character of the merciful God found in the Bible from the beginning all the way to the end (Exodus 34:5-6; Mark 11:25). Moreover, in the Old Testament, mercy is the nature of the divine covenant made by God with His people -a unilateral promise God has held Himself to.

Then, in the New Testament, we are told that Jesus is not after our outward religiosity or our compliance to rituals. Instead, He is after our heart to be like His heart-merciful (Matthew 9:10-13). How then do we apply being full of mercy in our life? Let us learn three practical applications.

KINDNESS (2 SAMUEL 9:1-13)

David promised Jonathan, son of his predecessor King Saul, that he would be kind to his descendants when he became king. It was counter-intuitive to fulfill this promise because Saul was David's number one adversary. Also, during that time, it was customary for the victorious king to wipe out members of the rival family to prevent future reprisal or revenge.

But as promised to his best friend, David ordered a search for anyone still alive in the family of Jonathan so that he could show the kindness of God to him (2 Samuel 9:1-7). Because he himself is a recipient of God's kindness, David could readily do such a favor-pay it forward.

Notice also that David did not choose a particular type of person deserving to receive his kindness. Simply, the search is for anyone alive from the relatives of Jonathan. David showed kindness that is not conditional but instead based on a promise.

As a result, Mephibosheth was found. Crippled on both feet, he fell on his face and prostrated himself before King David in full submission. This is a picture of our own brokenness before God-poor in spirit, hungry and thirsty for righteousness. We are undeserving of God's love and mercy, and yet we receive the kindness of God, not because of any performance from us but simply because of His promise and character.

David promised Mephibosheth that he would eat at the king's table, not just as a one-time guest but regularly, just like one of the family! Such a great privilege surely took away his shame. This is the same kindness God has for us. As we come broken before Him trusting Him with our lives, His kindness takes away the shame of our sin and brings us into His family.

COMPASSION (LUKE 10:25-37)

In the story, the Samaritan's treatment of the man who was beaten and left lying half-dead on the street is an explicit application of compassion. Being a mixed-breed and in conflict with the Jews, he could have just easily ignored the man. But unlike the priest and the Levite, who have had ancestral religious superiority, the Samaritan showed compassion to the man on the street badly in need of help.

After Jesus narrated the story, He answered the lawyer's question with a question: which of the three who passed by the man proved to be a neighbor? The

WORD (cont'd)

lawyer said it is the one who showed mercy. Jesus told him, "Go and do the same."

FORGIVENESS (MATTHEW 18:21-35)

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant tells of the story of a merciful master and an ungrateful and unmerciful servant. The servant owed his master a crazy amount of money. The servant fell on his knees and begged his master to forgive him. His master felt compassion for he knew that his servant will have no way of paying. So, he decided to just cancel his debt.

Sin is like a debt that we owe to God. There is no way we can repay it. We are spiritually bankrupt and any currency from us would be totally unacceptable. Even if it that means personal sacrifice on our part, it would only painfully fall short of the debt.

However, the forgiven servant had been unmerciful and cruel. He refused to forgive his fellow for a

pittance of debt. When their fellow slaves saw this, they were deeply grieved. When God's people refuse to forgive and be reconciled to their fellowmen, the rest of the body of believers also grieves. True believers mourn over what grieves the heart of God.

When the master saw what his servant did to his fellow servant, he was moved with anger. So, the master handed him over to the torturers until the servant could repay all that he owed.

God is merciful but He is also just. He commands us to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8). It will be hard to do what is just and at the same time be merciful, that is why we need to walk humbly with God and seek what would He do if He were in our situation. Do you know the perfect picture of justice and mercy at the same time? The cross! Justice was served, but mercy triumphed!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Mercy for Merciful.** What is the fifth beatitude according to Matthew 5:7? What promise comes with it?
2. **KCF.** How have you shown kindness, compassion and forgiveness? What was the impact of your action?
3. **Mercy and Justice.** How will you show justice and mercy together? How would you practice it this week?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. – Matthew 5:7

To whom will I show **kindness** in such a way that it will help point them to Jesus?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

To whom will I show **compassion** in such a way that it will help point them to Jesus?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

To whom will I extend **forgiveness** in such a way that it will help point them to Jesus?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- School and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends