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MERCY'S CALLING

Weekly Bible Study Schedule
Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 AM in HHR #5
(breakfast provided)
Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 PM in Office #225
(Sen. Wayne Wallingford's office)
Capitol Commission is non-partisan and non-denominational

NEW

***Thursday, March 9, 7:00 AM in HHR #5**
Explore themes of the Bible – video and informal conversation.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” (Matt 5:7 ESV)

What Mercy is...

The principal Hebrew word for mercy speaks of an emotional response to the needs of others. It means to feel the pain of another so deeply that we're compelled to do something about it. William Barclay defines mercy this way: “To get inside someone's skin until we can see things with his eyes, think things with his mind, and feel things with his feelings; to move in and act on behalf of those who are hurting.”

Mercy can be defined as: “good will toward the afflicted, joined with a desire to relieve them.”

“You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.” (Matt. 5:7 MES)

Mercy is the character of God

“The Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.” (Exodus 34:6)

The Bible describes God as gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in love. **People that know God, know God is good.** He is loving and caring.

God is not only merciful, he is “rich in mercy” (Ephesians 2:4). His mercy is “forever,” so that Israel's second King, David said, “Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life...” (Psalm 23:6). This is a man that was attacked many years of his life by Israel's first King, a defrocked king, and his renegade army.

Mercy's Narrative

Followers of Christ do not try to force God's will on a world unprepared for it. Many first-century Jews had begun to think that revolutionary violence was the only adequate response to the violence of oppression they experienced. Matthew's first audience no doubt could recall the bankruptcy of this approach, which led to crushing defeat in the war of A.D. 66-73. But Jesus promises the kingdom not to those who try to force God's hand in their time but to those who patiently and humbly wait for it—the meek, the poor in spirit, the merciful, the peacemakers.

Narrative #1 – The Good Samaritan

A man on a journey is attacked, robbed, beaten and left for dead. Another traveler comes along. He sees the man in his need but passes by on the other side. Sometime later another traveler comes to the same spot. He sees the need but he also passes by.

Then Jesus says, “But a Samaritan came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion... went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine” (Luke 10:33-34).

At the end of the story Jesus asks: “Which of these three proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” Answer: “The one who showed him mercy” (10:37).

Narrative #2 – The Weary Woman

Jesus travels 50 miles to Tyre and Sidon, locations where Gentiles lived. This woman cried out to Jesus saying,



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“Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.” She said “Son of David” to distinguish Jew and Gentile. She pleaded for her daughter’s deliverance – Jesus healed the daughter.

The book of Daniel chapter 9 and verse 18 says: **“We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.”**

Narrative #3 – The Disciple Peter

Peter was a type “A” personality. If playing basketball with 1 second on the clock and his team is down by 2 points, he would tell the coach: “give me the ball”. He’s convinced he will sink a basket worth 3 points. He’s the one first among the disciples to declare Jesus as God. To love Jesus passionately and to disown Jesus vehemently during Jesus’ trial. He was overcome with grief. Did you ever ask yourself: “How in the world did I end up doing that?” I have, and more than once. After the resurrection of Jesus, He met up with Peter. Rather than condemning Peter, or gripping bitterness, He asked Peter: “Do you love me?” Peter answered, “Lord, you know that I love you.” Three times they exchanged question and answer. After each of Peter’s answers he said, “Lord, you know I love you” and Jesus said: “Feed my sheep.” Peter went on to pastor the church of Jerusalem. Historians tell us the church eventually numbered 25,000.

Narrative #4 – The Large Crowd

Jesus taught a large crowd; He had compassion on them - hungry, sick and curious about faith. In Matthew 14:14 the word “compassion” means that Jesus was so moved that His stomach churned to do something about it.

Narrative #5 – Blind Bartimaeus

“Two blind men were sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was coming that way, they began shouting, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” (Matt 20:30).

The crowds told the blind man to be quiet. But they were the ones blind to his pain. Amidst the crowd devaluing the

blind man Jesus was leveling the playing field as He said: **“What do you want me to do for you?”** Mercy, compassion, care, is actionable. They use their resources to lighten life’s heavy load. To lift the depressed with hope. To inspire vision of what’s possible.

Narrative #7– The Ten Lepers

Considered “the walking dead.” Physically diseased socially outcast, exiled from human contact. They broke the rules by entering a forbidden space among the people. Luke 17:11-13 records the 10 lepers crying out to Jesus: “Master, have mercy on us!” He does, He heals them all.

Mercy is Calling

Blessed are the merciful: those that are compassionate for others; those that respond to people’s needs and cries for help; are slow to judge others using a “gentle judgment”. The merciful do not seek revenge against others. They stand for truth and righteousness.

Love Mercy

But he’s already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don’t take yourself too seriously—take God seriously. (Micah 6:8 MES)

Demonstrate Mercy

Zechariah 7:9: “...Show mercy and compassion to one another.”

Default to Mercy

“...for there will be no mercy to those who have shown no mercy. But if you have been merciful, then God’s mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you”. (James 2:3 TLB)

Mercy triumphs over judgment!”