God Family Country

GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Do It Anyway

Speaker: Mercedes Condon

The devotional draws on a later adaptation of Kent M. Keith's Paradoxical Commandments. Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Highlighted Scripture

- **Colossians 3:13 (NLT)**

  "Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

  Paul calls God's people to live together with compassion and patience. We forgive in response to the mercy we have received in Christ. Forgiveness releases personal revenge while allowing truth, accountability, and wise boundaries. Another person's offense need not decide our character.

- **Luke 6:35 (NLT)**

  "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid."

  Jesus teaches a love that reflects the Father's kindness even toward ungrateful people. Kindness is a response to God's character, rather than a transaction for approval. Consider how to seek someone's good when your motives are misunderstood.

- **1 Corinthians 15:58 (NLT)**

  "Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless."

  This encouragement concludes Paul's teaching about resurrection and Christ's victory over death. Service offered to the risen Lord has lasting value, including work whose fruit we cannot yet see. Continue faithfully while entrusting recognition and outcomes to him.

- **Proverbs 12:22 (NLT)**

  "The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth."

  God values truthfulness. Someone else's dishonesty does not require us to answer with deception. Honesty includes our speech, promises, and willingness to acknowledge our own mistakes; it grows from pleasing God rather than winning an argument.

- **Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NLT)**

  "Whatever you do, do well."

  Ecclesiastes reminds us that life is brief and our present opportunities matter. Give the work before you honest care. After a setback, take the next faithful step while remaining teachable about what to continue, change, or release.

- **Philippians 4:4 (NLT)**

  "Always be full of joy in the Lord."

  Paul roots joy in the Lord as he addresses a community experiencing tension and difficulty. This joy can coexist with sorrow. Receive God's goodness gratefully, without making another person's approval the foundation of your peace.

- **Galatians 6:9 (NLT)**

  "So let's not get tired of doing what is good."

  Paul's harvest image follows his teaching about sowing to the Spirit and eternal life. Keep doing good to people and trust God's timing. The promise gives hope for faithful living, not a formula for immediate recognition or financial success.

- **Colossians 3:23 (NLT)**

  "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."

  Paul addresses enslaved believers and points them to Christ as their true Master. His surrounding instructions also hold earthly masters accountable for justice. Our application is wholehearted service with integrity, remembering that how we treat people matters to God.

- **Romans 14:12 (NLT)**

  "Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God."

  Paul uses personal accountability to discourage contempt and judgment toward fellow believers. Answering to God calls us to humility and care for our neighbors. We can release the need for applause while staying receptive to wise correction and responsible for our actions.

Discussion Questions

- Which part of Mercedes's invitation is hardest for you right now: forgiving, showing kindness, telling the truth, continuing good work, or rejoicing? What makes it difficult?
- How does remembering the Lord's forgiveness change the way you respond to someone who has hurt you? What would forgiveness and wise accountability look like together?
- When work is overlooked or something you built is damaged, what helps you distinguish faithful perseverance from a need to prove yourself? How could you seek God's direction for the next step?
- What changes when joy is rooted in the Lord rather than other people's reactions? How can you celebrate goodness and still remain compassionate toward someone who is struggling?
- How does giving an account to God increase your responsibility to love other people? What would it look like to receive helpful correction without letting criticism determine your worth?

Reflection Challenge

For the next seven days, choose one ordinary situation in which disappointment has made you reluctant to do good. Read the highlighted passage that speaks to it, pray before responding, and practice one faithful action. Look for growth in love and integrity rather than a change in someone else's reaction.

Ask yourself:

- Whose approval am I waiting for before I will do what I already know is right?
- Am I seeking this person's good, or hoping my goodness will make a point?
- What would faithful service look like within my real responsibilities, limits, and need for rest?

Try this:

- Name a resentment honestly in prayer. Ask God to help you release revenge and choose one wise, peaceful response.
- Offer one practical kindness without announcing it or asking for credit: help with a task, share encouragement, or meet a small need.
- Give careful attention to one unfinished responsibility. If direction is unclear, ask a trusted Christian for counsel before committing to more.
- At the end of the week, write down where God helped you act with honesty, gratitude, or patience. Thank him for growth even where the outcome is unresolved.

Remember

- God's mercy is the starting point for forgiveness.
- Kindness and honesty need not wait for fair treatment.
- Because Christ is risen, faithful service to him has lasting value.
- Joy in the Lord can remain present alongside grief and disappointment.
- Serving God includes loving our neighbors and receiving wise correction.
- Do the next good thing with the strength God supplies, and entrust the results to him.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the mercy you have shown us in Jesus. When we are hurt, misunderstood, or overlooked, keep bitterness from directing our choices. Teach us to forgive with wisdom, speak truth with humility, and show kindness without keeping score. Renew our strength for the work you have given us, and help us recognize when we need rest, counsel, or a different direction. Root our joy in you. As we remember that we answer to you, make us more attentive to the people you call us to love. Help us do today's good work faithfully and leave its results in your hands.

In Jesus' name, Amen.