

# More GOD Please

Merciful & Forgiving

**DOES GOD REALLY FORGIVE BAD PEOPLE?** (2 Chronicles 33:1-9; 2 Kings 21:16)

- ▶ Heaven's "boomerang principle" (Numbers 32:23)
- ▶ But what about God's mercy & forgiveness? (Psalm 103:8; Exodus 34:6-7; Proverbs 28:13)

**GOD'S MERCY** (James 2:13)

- ▶ Definition: His \_\_\_\_\_ toward those in \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

PRINCIPLE #1: If God did not extend mercy & forgiveness to fallen humans, we would have \_\_\_\_\_ for building \_\_\_\_\_.

- ▶ Story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50)
- ▶ Sin is "missing the mark" regarding God's will (found in Scripture)
- ▶ List of Biblical sins (find on Sermon Page of website or, If taking notes on Creekside App, see button that says "List of Sins")
- ▶ Sin & debt toward God – Our common disease (Psalm 51:4,5; Romans 5:12; Luke 18:13-14)

PRINCIPLE #2: Every one of us \_\_\_\_\_ God's \_\_\_\_\_... yet none of us \_\_\_\_\_ it!

**GOD'S FORGIVENESS** (Psalm 103:1-3, 10-12)

- ▶ Definition: The \_\_\_\_\_ of a person's \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ them from any \_\_\_\_\_ associated with that sin.

▶ Conclusion of Manasseh's story: 2 Chronicles 36:12-13

PRINCIPLE #3: As long as you are \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, God's mercy & forgiveness can reach you!

**HOW DOES THIS AFFECT US? (How Then Shall We Live?)**

① \_\_\_\_\_ God's mercy & forgiveness  
(Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9)

- ▶ The 3 "heart conditions/requirements": (A) \_\_\_\_\_  
(B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

② \_\_\_\_\_ others mercy & forgiveness  
(Matthew 10:8; 5:7; 6:12-15)

- ▶ Mercy & forgiveness will be shown to those who are merciful & forgiving
- ▶ Remember what forgiveness is & isn't
  - It's not an emotion; it's an act of the will
  - It's not forgetting; it's choosing not to use the past against the debtor
  - It's not tolerating sin for that would make a mockery out of forgiveness
  - It's not waiting until the other person says "I'm sorry, please forgive me"
  - It's not seeking revenge or repayment; it's resolving to live with the consequences of another's sin



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LifeGroup Discussion Questions—2/6/2022

## Prayer

Take a few moments to check in with your group and reconnect. How can you pray for one another for the upcoming week?

## My Story

What's your favorite classic "damsel in distress" story or movie? What makes these stories so exciting?

## Digging Deep

- 1) **Read 2 Chronicles 33:1-9.** Manasseh was guilty of a "Mt. Everest pile of serious sins" that angered God and harmed the people around him. Was he worthy of mercy? What would it take for you to forgive such a person? Could you do it?
- 2) While some people's sins may appear more "serious" than ours, every person is in need of forgiveness for what they've done. How seriously do you take your own personal need for God's mercy and forgiveness? What are your rhythms for talking with God about your transgressions?

## Digging Even Deeper

- 3) **Read John 18:25-27 and 21:15-19.** Jesus forgives Peter even after his denial of being a follower/disciple. If someone denied being a close friend or associate of yours, how easily would you forgive them for that? Is there someone you have wronged that you need to seek forgiveness from?
- 4) Why is it important that mercy includes "goodness" but, at the same time, doesn't overlook wrongdoing? Thinking back on last week's message on the Holiness and Justice of God, where is the justice in God's forgiving guilty sinners? (Hint: Romans 5:8)

- 5) **Read James 2:13.** What does it mean for mercy to triumph over judgement (justice)? How does this apply to God's mercy for you? And the mercy you are called to offer others?

## Taking it Home

- 6) What does it look like for God's mercy to give you what you need instead of just what you want? Can you think of a time when you wanted something that wasn't actually good for you?
- 7) **Read 1 John 1:9.** Why is confession of sins important for gaining forgiveness?
- 8) **Read Matthew 6:14-15.** Now have someone read from the sermon outline about what forgiveness actually is and isn't. Is there anyone in your life you have currently not forgiven? Are you willing to obey Christ and forgive that person now?

*"Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I choose to forgive \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_. I also pledge not to bring this up ever again because that's what You do for me!"*

- 9) **Read Micah 6:8.** What could you do differently this week to reflect the command to "love mercy and walk humbly with your God?"

## Praying Together

Share prayer requests and pray together. Pray that we exude gratitude for being forgiven by the blood of Christ and delight in extending mercy and forgiveness to others.