

# Three Sides of Mercy

March 19, 2017

## I. Introduction

**Matthew 5:7** Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Mercy is not getting what you deserve.

## II. Three Sides Of Mercy

### 1. Mercy and God

- Mercy begins with God.

**Exodus 34:6 (ESV)** The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

A. *It is God's character to be merciful.*

**Psalm 25:6-7** Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

B. *It is God's gift to be merciful.*

**Psalm 51:1-2** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

C. *It is God's command to be merciful.*

**Micah 6:8** He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

### 2. Mercy and Others

A. *Mercy is an action not an emotion.*

**Matthew 5:7** Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

B. *Mercy is based on calling and not condition.*

C. *Mercy may be an act of compassion.*

**Zechariah 7:8-10** And the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart."

**Matthew 9:27** As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

*D. Mercy may be an act of forgiveness.*

**Matthew 18:32-35** Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.

### **3. Mercy and Me**

*A. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

**James 2:13** because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

**Matthew 7:1-2** Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

*B. We must be careful to judge without being judgmental.*

**Matthew 7:6** "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

1. The follower of Jesus is called to live with discernment.

**Matthew 7:3-5** "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

- We must be careful to judge without thinking we are the Judge.
2. Discernment becomes judgment when we are critical of others without acknowledging the condition of ourselves.

**Romans 12:3** For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

3. If a situation is not resolved by patient mercy, it may require clear and compassionate action.

**Matthew 7:12** So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

- Legalism is merciless.

#### *C. Mercy boomerangs.*

**Proverbs 11:17** Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves.

**Proverbs 14:21** It is a sin to despise one's neighbor, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy.

**Psalms 18:25-26** With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless; with the purified you show yourself pure; and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.

**Matthew 6:12-15** And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

- When you give mercy to another, you receive it for yourself.

#### *D. Mercy is found in Jesus.*

**1 Timothy 1:15-16** Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

**Hebrews 2:17** For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

**Matthew 5:7** Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.