

Christmas 02: "Mercy"
Luke 1:39-55

December 4, 2022

Main Idea: Always aware and understanding of our human needs, Jesus Christ is God's gift of mercy.

Jesus and Mercy

Over the course of Jesus's life, He demonstrated mercy in high order. Jesus was always prepped and ready to show kindness to those in need. The mercy demonstrated by God the Father in the OT is now on display for the world to see in Christ Jesus (see Ephesians 2:4-5). Further, every symbol or symbolic action of God's mercy in the OT would be fulfilled or realized by Jesus Christ, God's Son. Jesus was the embodiment of God's mercy.

OT Illustrations

The OT term for mercy is a Hebrew word: "hesed". It is usually translated either "mercy" or "lovingkindness." Here are 4 examples of how God brought "mercy, lovingkindness" to miserable people.

- ❑ **Case Study 1: Joseph** – God's mercy overcomes bitterness when we suffer unjustly.
- ❑ **Case Study 2: Ruth** – God's mercy relieves our pain when we grieve.
- ❑ **Case Study 3: Job** – God's mercy relieves our hopelessness when we endure pain.
- ❑ **Case Study 4: David** – God's mercy relieves the guilt of our transgression.

The Mercy Seat

God's mercy was a part of Mary's culture. The ark of the covenant had been around since the days of Moses. The Israelites carried it before them wherever they went. The ark rested in the most intimate place in the Temple. A golden lid covered the 10 Commandments which were inside the chest and two angels bowed over the mercy seat.

For centuries the blood of the sacrifice had been poured out onto the mercy seat to cover the sins of the people while the angels looked on. It's beautiful! It's called the mercy seat because it covers the Law. God's mercy covers His Law. The holiest place in the Temple is not a place of Law, but a place of mercy.

Family Night Big Idea

Your children need an appreciation for God's mercy. God understands us and meets us at our need. He is merciful when we are hurting and even when we fail.

Discussion Starter – Read Luke 1:39-55

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "What did Elizabeth's baby do when she saw Mary, the mother of Jesus?" Ask, "Who gets to receive God's mercy (v.50)?" Ask, "What kind of people does God lift up (v.52)?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "Why was Elizabeth so 'star-struck' by Mary?" Ask, "Why is God's mercy important to you?" Ask, "How does knowing that God is merciful help you most?"

Prayer

"Father, thank You for Your mercy. Thank You that You understand our problems and forgive our sins. Amen."

<p>Velocity (Middle and High School Students) Velocity: This Wednesday, December 7th. Gravity: Not Today</p> <p>Today's Songs <i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i> <i>O Come All Ye Faithful</i> <i>Hark the Herald Angels Sing</i> <i>Joy to the World</i></p> <p>Mother/Son Basketball Game Sign up in KidsJAM or online starting today. We need to reserve your ticket if you would like to go. It is Saturday, January 7th and tickets are \$15. Join us!</p>	<p>Deck the Halls The fun starts TODAY at 4:30. Wear your pajamas and bring your sleeping bag along with money for the Concession Stand. Pictures will be made outside by the toddler playground. Gingerbread Houses in the Community Room.</p> <p>Christmas for Families You will find the wish lists in the lobby for six families that we are helping with Christmas gifts. If you would like to buy a gift, please sign your name and number on the list. You will need to wrap your gift and attach a removable tag with the family information that identifies your gift. All gifts are due at church on December 18th. Thank you!</p> <p>Christmas Eve Service December 24 at 6pm. No church on Christmas Day.</p>
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