

MEMORY VERSE

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



Rick Mandl

rick@eaglerockbaptist.com

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JESUS ON COMPASSION

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

What does it mean to be merciful?

It's not . . .

MECHANICAL

"While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew 9:10-13

MEASURED

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel."

Matthew 23:23-24

It is LOVE IN ACTION

"On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' 'What is written in the Law?' he replied. 'How do you read it?' He answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 'You have answered correctly,' Jesus replied. 'Do this and you will live.'

Luke 10:25-28

"But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:29

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"In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 'Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?' The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'" Luke 10:30-37

What does mercy look like?

If I'm merciful...

1) I'll SEE those who are SUFFERING

2) I'll FEEL COMPASSION for those who have FALLEN

3) I'll HELP those who are HURTING even if they are MY ENEMY

How can I become merciful?

I need to...

1) RECOGNIZE my need for mercy

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

2) RECEIVE the mercy that God offers

"*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.*" Titus 3:4-5

3) RISK being merciful to others

"*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.*" Hebrews 4:15

Discussion Questions - Week #2

LIFE GROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend, "Jesus On Compassion", in a sentence or two, summarize the main point.

Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED

- Mercy is one of the most common characteristics used to portray God in scripture. If your friends or family had to describe you in a word or a few words, how do you think they would do so?

- Pastor Rick described mercy as love in action. Share an example of a time when you were on the receiving end of mercy?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Luke 16:19-31. How does the author contrast Lazarus and the rich man?

What do you think is the central message of the parable?

Why did Abraham refuse to do what the rich man asked?

What are ways the rich man could have demonstrated mercy while he was still living?

How could you practically apply the truth found in this parable in your own life?

2. What do you think of when you think of the story of Jonah?

Read Jonah chapter 4. What stands out to you in this passage?

How did Jonah characterize God?

Why was this a problem for Jonah?

Do you think he was overdramatic? Why or why not?

Why do you think we freely embrace God's mercy toward ourselves, but at times prefer it being withheld from others?

TAKING IT HOME

- Which of the three areas that Pastor Rick shared do you need to work on most to become a more merciful person?

- Who in your life do you need to extend mercy to?

PRAYER REQUESTS