

Sermon: The merciful

Matthew 5:7

God commands us to have mercy

Mercy means to have compassion and act on it.

1. Have mercy on those whom you know and love.

2. Have mercy to those whom you know and don't love.

This includes those who have hurt you.

The one who hurts you gives you an opportunity.

3. Have mercy on those whom you don't know.

Mercy is a more important that worship.

Matthew 9:12-13

The world needs mercy

Mercy is needed by the failure.

1 Peter 4:8

Mercy is needed by the unlovely.

Ephesians 4:2

Mercy is needed by the lost.

Jude 1:22-23

Mercy is needed by everyone.

Ephesians 4:31-32

You need mercy

If you want mercy from God, you have to give it to others.

James 2:13, Matthew 18:32-35

Bible study: The merciful

Getting to know you

1. Last Sunday's sermon was on mercy. Is there anything about the sermon you would like to discuss in your small group?
2. Are you a compassionate person or does mercy come hard to you? Why?

Going deeper

3. Read Luke 10:25-29. It says here that this man was testing Jesus and Jesus just turned the question back to him. Why do you think he asked the follow-up question, "Who is my neighbor?"

We know that real love is costly. It takes a sacrifice. I think the natural tendency is to try to limit its scope. If we're just talking about people I know who are close to me, then maybe it won't cost me too much. If that is what this questioner is trying to do, then he failed. Jesus picked the last person that a good Jew would think of as a neighbor. Jesus' implication is we should stop trying to limit the scope of our love and love each person.

4. Read Luke 10:30-37. What is extraordinary about what the Samaritan did for the robbery victim?

For one thing, the Samaritan was kind to someone at risk to himself. He was also showing kindness to someone across a racial divide. He gave his time and his money to help the man.

5. Jesus told his questioner that he should go and do likewise. What are the barriers to showing this kind of mercy?

It can be a real sacrifice of time and money. It can take forgiveness or at least an overlooking of prejudices. It can take courage because any time we love someone it can put us in vulnerable positions.

6. How can we overcome the barriers to showing mercy?

We need to spend time in the word and in prayer about God helping us to forgive and overcome our prejudices. We need to ask God to help us see other people the way God sees them. And God can give us courage because he is watching over us and protecting us.

Putting it into practice

7. Who do you need to show mercy to this week? If you can share