

Forgiveness: Release. Reset. Renew

Luke 18:9-14

October 24, 2021

1. Mercy sometimes is compassion; sometimes it is forgiveness
The Good Samaritan “*had mercy*” = compassion (Luke 10:37)
The Unmerciful Servant was unforgiving (Matt. 18:32-33)
2. Mercy : forgiveness as grace : **reconciliation**
 - a. *mercy* is not getting the punishment you deserve
 - b. *grace* is getting the **blessing** you don’t deserve
3. To whom was this parable spoken?
 - a. Anyone who’s self-righteous about **anything**
 - b. Only the **messy** get mercy
 - c. Place your trust only in Christ’s righteousness (Phil. 3:8-9)
4. God is **merciful** (Neh. 9:31; Jer. 3:12; Dan. 9:9; 18-19)
5. The Pharisee’s prayer
Pharisees were fanatics about the Mosaic law
“*God, I thank you . . .*” (a good beginning)
The rest of the prayer is all about **himself**
6. The tax collector’s prayer
Tax collectors were a special kind of sinners (Matt. 9:11)
“*God, have mercy on me, the sinner.*” (see also Psa. 51:1)

The tax collector’s prayer is a plea for God’s wrath against his sin to be satisfied and God’s mercy to be extended.
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7. When should we pray for God’s mercy?
When in need of compassion (relief from **suffering**)
When in need of forgiveness (relief from **sin**)
8. God justifies those who **ask** for His mercy and forgiveness
“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

Life Group Homework

1. What insight, observation or principle did you find eye-opening, helpful or troubling?
2. Read the verses in context and decide how *mercy* is used

	Compassion	Forgiveness	Other? Both?
Psalms 78:38			
Matthew 5:7			
Matthew 9:27			
Matthew 15:22			
Matthew 17:15			
Mark 5:19			
Luke 17:13			
Romans 12:1			
James 2:13			

3. *agree/disagree*
Because Christians are free from all condemnation in Christ (see Romans 8:1) we never need to pray for God’s mercy.
4. Which person in the parable needed God’s mercy more?
5. Have you ever experienced a merciful, forgiving environment?
Share what you remember about the people you met there.
6. Read Matthew 9:10-13 where Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6. How linked are compassion and forgiveness in the mercy Jesus desires? Is it possible to really separate the two?
7. What is the most encouraging thing you learned from this sermon? Who will you share it with? When?