

## In View of God's Mercy

Our lives, which are based on Mercy, is like a criminal spared by a merciful sentence. We escape the punishment we deserve, yet we grumble about the accommodations.

We must live recognizing Mercy instead of celebrating in ignorance - Eccl 7:2 It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart.

God's mercy is the entrance to the salvation of our lives, so we must live in recognition of it -Rom 12:1- Therefore, I urge you, brothers, **IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY**, to **OFFER** your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.

For all those that truly follow God receives mercy in all God does for them- - Ps 25:10 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. NKJV

Mercy is part of the remedy that redeems our sins - Prov 16:6 In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil. NKJV

### WHAT IS MERCY

An example of how we must recognize MERCY - Matt 18:21-35 - 21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "**I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.** 23 "Therefore, the **kingdom of heaven is like** a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 Since **he was not able to pay**, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26 "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27 **The servant's master TOOK PITY ON HIM, CANCELED THE DEBT and LET HIM GO.** 28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. **He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.** 29 "**His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'** 30 "**But HE REFUSED.** Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32 "**Then THE MASTER CALLED THE SERVANT IN. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'** 34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 "**THIS IS HOW MY HEAVENLY FATHER WILL TREAT EACH OF YOU UNLESS YOU FORGIVE YOUR BROTHER FROM YOUR HEART.**"

Mercy is offered to all, but only Christians receive it - 1 Peter 2:9-10 - 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now **YOU HAVE RECEIVED MERCY.**

We must recognize what we were, and how God's mercy offered a path away from destruction - Eph 2:1-6 - As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you **followed the ways of this world** and of **the ruler of the kingdom of the air**, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, **gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature** and **following its desires and thoughts.** **Like the rest, we WERE BY NATURE OBJECTS OF WRATH.** 4 But because of his great love for us, **God, who is RICH IN MERCY**, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — **it is by grace you have been saved.**

- Lived in disobedience and sins
- Followed the world and Satan
- Lived for self, being led by flesh and headed to Hell
- God's undeserved Mercy led to Christ
- We are offered the undeserved Gift of eternal life with Him.

Mercy can NOT be earned - Titus 3:4-8 - 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but BECAUSE OF HIS MERCY. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

The reasons our righteous acts are not enough is because we fall extremely short because of self - Rom 3:10-18 - 10 As it is written: "**THERE IS NO ONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;** 11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." 13 "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." 14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 ruin and misery mark their ways, 17 and the way of peace they do not know." 18 "There is **NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.**"

**The wicked do not offer mercy** - Prov 21:10 The wicked man craves evil; his **neighbor gets no mercy** from him.

**The wicked's version of mercy is actually damaging** - Prov 12:10 A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast; **But the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.** ASV

## HOW MERCY WORKS

**For us to really appreciate God's Mercy, we must TRULY recognize who we really are –**

Rom 7:21-25- 21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. 24 **WHAT A WRETCHED MAN I AM! WHO WILL RESCUE ME FROM THIS BODY OF DEATH?** 25 Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Prov 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but **whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.**

**We must trust in God in order to understand how His mercy works in our lives** - James 5:10-11 - 10 Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and **HAVE SEEN WHAT THE LORD FINALLY BROUGHT ABOUT.** The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

**He gives mercy at times due to our shortcomings** - 1 Tim 1:13-14 - 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy BECAUSE I ACTED IN IGNORANCE AND UNBELIEF. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

**He gives mercy to the worst to show all have access to it, and we must display Him** - 1 Tim 1:15-16 - 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that **VERY REASON I WAS SHOWN MERCY SO THAT IN ME, the worst of sinners, CHRIST JESUS MIGHT DISPLAY HIS UNLIMITED PATIENCE as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.**

**Mercy is for God to give as He sees fit –**

Rom 9:11-16 - 11 Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad — in order that God's purpose in election might stand: 12 not by works but by him who calls — she was told, "The older will serve the younger." 13 Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." 14 What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! 15 For he says to Moses, "**I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.**" 16 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Rom 9:17-18 - 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." 18 Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

**We will see results of that unearned mercy even during this life** - Phil 2:25-27 - 25 But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. 26 For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But **God had mercy on him,** and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.

## HOW WE MUST DEAL WITH MERCY

**This shows that all Christians must show mercy** - Matt 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for **they will** be shown mercy.

**The basis for all ministries must be God's mercy** - 2 Cor 4:1-2 - Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. **On the contrary,** by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

**Mercy is the act of us going above and beyond to those in need** - Luke 10:33-37-33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins 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.' 36 "**Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?**" 37 The expert in the law replied, "**THE ONE WHO HAD MERCY ON HIM.**"

**There are those that have the gift of mercy** - Rom 12:8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; **if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.**

**Mercy, along with other Godly qualities, is making it NOT about us, but about showing God to others** - Col 3:12-15 - 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, →

→ meekness, longsuffering; 13 **bearing with one another**, and **forgiving one another**, if anyone has a complaint against another; even **as Christ forgave you, so you also must do**. 14 **But above all these things put on love**, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts**, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. NKJV

### God is looking for us to exercise mercy over consequence –

Matt 9:11-13 - 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with **tax collectors and sinners?**" 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, **but the sick**. 13 But go and learn what this means: **'I DESIRE MERCY, NOT SACRIFICE.'** For **I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.**"

Matt 12:1-8 - At that time Jesus went through the grainfields **on the Sabbath**. His disciples **were hungry** and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. 2 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath." 3 He answered, "**Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions WERE HUNGRY?** 4 **He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread — which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests.** 5 Or haven't you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent? 6 I tell you that one greater than the temple is here. 7 If you had known what these words mean, 'I DESIRE MERCY, NOT SACRIFICE,' **you would not have condemned the innocent.** 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

**Question, was mercy not shown here?** - 2 Sam 6:6-7 - 6 When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, **Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled.** 7 The **Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died** there beside the ark of God.

**\*Answer, we CANNOT mistake "meaning well" over Reverence**

**God never endorses sin, but He wants us to deal with sin with mercy knowing we all have access to, and not with condemnation** - John 8:3-11-3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees **brought in a woman caught in adultery**. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "**Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.** 5 **In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?**" 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "**IF ANY ONE OF YOU IS WITHOUT SIN, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.**" 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, **those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.** 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? **Has no one condemned you?**" 11 "No one, sir," she said. "**Then neither do I condemn you,**" Jesus declared. "**GO NOW AND LEAVE YOUR LIFE OF SIN.**"

**\*Make no mistake, Mercy is not accepting or excusing wrong, it is offering a path away from continuing wrong.**

**We've allowed human compassion and viewpoint to mislead ourselves and others** - Rom 1:32 Although **they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death**, they **not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.**

**Remember our responsibility to others is for God, NOT them** - Gal 6:1 Brothers, if **someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.** But **watch yourself**, or you also may be tempted.

**Mercy is NEVER meant as a way to endorse and accept sin** - Jude 4 For **certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago** have **secretly slipped in among you**. They are **godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality** and **deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.**

- **Secret false leaders amongst true Christians**
- **Misrepresent Grace as a way to acceptably sin**
- **Will override the Supreme leadership of Christ**

**Mercy is not just meant for those you like and are good to you but especially for your enemies** - Luke 6:32-36 - 32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? **Even 'sinners' love those who love them.** 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? **Even 'sinners' do that.** 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? **Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full.** 35 But **love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back.** **THEN** your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 **Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**

**Those who know mercy know who they really are in Christ** - Luke 18:9-14 - 9 **To some who were CONFIDENT OF THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LOOKED DOWN ON EVERYBODY ELSE**, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector**. 11 The **Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself:** →

→ 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He **would not even look up to heaven**, but beat his breast and said, '**GOD, HAVE MERCY ON ME, A SINNER.**' 14 "I tell you that **this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

**Notice that those truly seeking Gods help, seek through God's mercy NOT entitlement**

**Canaanite woman's daughter** - Matt 15:22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, **HAVE MERCY ON ME! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession.**"

**The possessed son** - Matt 17:14-15- 14 When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. 15 "**LORD, HAVE MERCY ON MY SON,**" he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water.

**In our righteous living, we tend to miss the more important actions which include mercy** - Matt 23:23 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices — mint, dill and cummin. 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.

**Only those that recognize life is 100% about God, truly access His mercy** - Gal 6:14-16 - 14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. 16 **Peace and mercy** to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.

**We really have a Lord that understands what we go through because He went through it** - Heb 4:15-16 - 15 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. 16 Let us then **approach the throne of grace with confidence, SO THAT we may receive mercy** and find grace to help us in our time of need.

**If we truly have mercy, we will show it** - 1 John 3:17-19 - 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but **has no pity on him, HOW CAN THE LOVE OF GOD BE IN HIM?** 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with **ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH.**

**Those that show Godly mercy are Godly wise** - James 3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, **full of mercy** and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

**We must stay in God's love while we wait for the final results of His mercy** - Jude 21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to **eternal life.**

**Mercy plays a major part when dealing with others in the Body** - Jude 22-23 - 22 **Be merciful** to those who doubt; 23 snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear-hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

**Be warned!!! We MUST show mercy to receive mercy** - James 2:12-13 - 12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because **judgment without mercy WILL BE SHOWN** to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

## WHERE MERCY ENDS

**Hell is where mercy no longer exists** - Luke 16:22-26 - 22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. 24 And he called out, '**Father Abraham, have mercy on me,** and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ESV

**There are those that will knowingly decline God's Mercy** - Heb 10:26-31 - 26 If we **deliberately keep on sinning** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 **How much more severely** do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "**The Lord will judge his people.**" 31 **It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

