

Lesson 26
Becoming Men of Mercy

Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.- Matt 9:13

"Love for Christ because He went to the Cross and hate for sin that sent Him there is a solid foundation for the spiritual mortification of the flesh." John Owen (1616-1683)

"A poor memory of God's mercy makes for a pitiful ministry to others for the glory of God."

"To the degree that you forget the grace that you have been given, to that same degree it is easier for you not to extend grace to others...The call to forgive immediately exposes our need for forgiveness. The call to give grace reveals how much we need grace. The call to forgive is at the same time a call to remember and to be thankful..." Paul David Tripp

"Men will never worship God with a sincere heart, or be roused to fear and obey Him with sufficient zeal, until they properly understand how much they are indebted to His mercy." John Calvin (1509-1564)

Review: In our last lesson we combined our study of *What God has Done* with looking at *How God has Done It*...through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are continuing to grow deeper in our understanding of gospel driven godliness as we grapple with the inseparable link between the indicatives and the imperatives of Scripture! We have seen from both the structure of Scripture (Col 1-2 before 3-4) and the nature of God (Ex 19 before 20) that generally, **God explains before He exhorts**. It is the facts about God that drive our pursuit of faithfulness to God (1 Pet 1:15-16)! This all-encompassing reality must never be forgotten as we strive to fulfill our calling to train ourselves to godliness (1 Tim 4:7) because it is the truth of Col 3:1-4 that encourages and further equips a believer to humbly follow the mandate of Col 3:5 to personally kill the sin that remains in our flesh. We also wrestled with the "riches" of God's mercy as declared in Eph 2:4 and Titus 3:5. We saw how God's mercy given through Christ is to be a powerful impetus of praise in the life of every believer (Rom 15:9; 2 Cor 5:14-15). We learned from the illustration in Luke 10:25-37 that God's mercy is the foundation of grace and grace is ultimately the fruit of mercy! Therefore, God sees us miserable sinners in mercy and loves us in grace (Lk 1:78; Eph 2:4-5 & Titus 3:4-6). All of this continues to deepen our understanding of how biblical training to godliness is really **directed** by what God has said in His Word, **driven** by who God is in His holy character, and **determined** by what God has done in the Gospel through the grace given by Christ!

1. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10, and then read verses 11-17 and explain what you see here as it pertains to the indicatives of mercy driving the imperatives of godliness.

What is the biblical definition of “mercy” (see Ps 51:1-5)?

Read these verses and explain the pervasive problem that haunts every follower of Christ, especially those that seek to train themselves in holiness: Deut 4:9; 6:12; Ps 103:2; Jer 2:32; 3:21; 13:21; 18:15; 1 Cor 11:17-32; Rom 15:15; 2 Timothy 2:15; Titus 2:15-3:1; 2 Pet 1:9,12-13; 3:1-2

What are the dangers we face if we seek to train ourselves to godliness or even live the Christian life from a place of “forgetfulness?”

Give 3 Old Testament examples or illustrations where mercy was manifested either by God or because of God’s work through man. Here is an example to get you started, look up Lev 16:11-19 and read about the “mercy seat.” Now explain what was the purpose for and provision given by the mercy seat?

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Was God obligated or is God ever obligated to provide man mercy? See Ex 33:19; Rom 9:15; Jer 13:13-14; Ezek 9:9-10 for help in answering this question.

How does the “mercy seat” all point to Christ and how does Christ become our eternal mercy seat? See Hebrews 9:1-28.

Are believers ever in danger of not showing mercy to others, and if so, why?

Are there any clear illustrations of this in the Bible and if so where? Read Mt 18:21-35

Consider the context of Mt 18:21-35 and contemplate the critical nature of mercy within the ministry of the local church (Luke 6:27-36). Titus 3:5 and Eph 2:4 make it explicitly clear that **mercy is the conduit through which forgiveness flows!** What does that mean (See for help Eph 4:32 & Col 3:12-13)?

Furthermore, see the following verses and explain what is inseparably linked to mercy in all these verses Ps 51:1-2; 78:38; 103:1-14; Isa 55:6-7; Dan 9:9; Mic 7:18; Luke 1:77-78; 18:13-14; Js 2:13; 1 Pet 2:10)!

How critical is forgiveness to the life that trains for godliness and what connection does this have to the Gospel and 2 Pet 3:18?

Memory Verse: Rom 1:16