

Podcast Episode Notes
S9 Ep 6 I'm Begging You for Mercy

We don't think much about mercy until we need it. We don't want to suffer the consequences when we have wronged someone. But when the shoe is on the other foot, we realize that it is far more satisfying to default to revenge and displays of strength. Jesus calls us to be merciful though. Will we obey?

Matthew 5:7 – Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy

- Mercy is compassion for people in need: people in pain, misery, distress, results of sin.
- God shows continuous mercy. *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."* Lam.3:22-23
- The world, by contrast, can be unmerciful...tends to insulate itself from the calamities of humanity. But those who show mercy, find it!
- It is those who are also meek that tend to be merciful...for to be meek is to acknowledge that we are all sinners; to be merciful is to have compassion on others, for they are sinners too.
- In life, we have two choices: follow our sinful nature and seek revenge, or to cross over into the supernatural and show mercy.
- True mercy means to "let people off the hook"! It is doing what you can do to see they never get caught for what they did to you. You don't even tell people what they did. Mercy is not reminding people of their faults and failures, or their past. It is allowing them to "save face" by giving them every break you can, while refusing to point the finger at them – even tho their actions have wounded you, or they may annoy you. THIS IS HOW GOD IS TOWARDS US!
- The Greek word for mercy is the opposite of wrath or justice. In the NT, it is a gracious action, with a sense of heartfelt sympathy.
- Being godly is not giving justice (what they deserve) but mercy (what they don't deserve). It is also treating them with "favor"
- Mercy expressed through us often begins with brokenness within our own lives.
 - Genesis Joseph story – rejected and thrown into a pit by his brothers – yet ultimately not seeking vengeance and punishment when he could, but rather forgiving, and demonstrating mercy towards his family. THIS IS THE SUPERNATURAL impacting our will.
- This kind of demonstration of character allows God to trust one with more of His Kingdom.
- This is demonstrating God's character and heart to 1) His Body, and 2) to the world around us that desperately needs to see and experience Him.
- Two kinds of mercy:
 - Affectionate mercy – when you feel affection toward the person.
 - Deliberate mercy – You go out of your way, overruling your personal feelings, to demonstrate grace and kindness. It is remembering God's attitude towards you and expressing the same to them.
- "They shall receive mercy"
 - God remembers. He notices what we do. It's as if he makes a "note in His book".
 - Consider how many times you've received God's mercy – not getting what you deserve – through expressions that look like graciousness and kindness!