

God is Merciful So Be Merciful

Summary: The LORD has a tender heart toward us, which is easily moved by our afflictions, distresses, needs, and weaknesses. He is easily motivated to help us, strengthen us, etc. Even when we inflict pain or suffering upon ourselves, The LORD is pitiful toward us in our distress. He is, for Jesus' sake, disposed to do us good. He is disposed to overlook our sins, to treat us better than we deserve, and to refrain from punishing us - and when He does punish/discipline, because of His mercy it is always less than the fulness of the law warrants....The LORD is merciful. And what of me? What of you? When we are confronted with other's sins weaknesses, distresses, or needs, what spills out of our heart? Tenderness? A willingness and tendency to forgive and refrain from judgment and/or punishment? Sympathy? A tendency and willingness to bless or do good? If The LORD is merciful, and we have enjoyed His mercy, seeing it as good, then we too should be merciful.

I. Introduction

a. Definitions from Webster 1828 Dictionary

- i. Merciful = *"having or exercising mercy; compassionate; tender; disposed to pity offenders and to forgive their offenses; unwilling to punish for [wrongs done against oneself]..."*
- ii. Mercy = *"That benevolence, mildness, or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook [wrongs done against them], or to treat an offender better than he deserves; the disposition that tempers justice, and induces an injured person to forgive trespasses and [wrongs done against them], and to [refrain from] punishment, or inflict less than law or justice will warrant..."*
- iii. Compassion = *"Having a temper or disposition to pity; inclined to show mercy...having a heart that is tender, and easily moved by the distress, sufferings, wants, and infirmities of others."*
- iv. Pity = *"To feel pain or grief for one in distress; to have sympathy for...to have tender feelings for one, excited by his unhappiness."*

b. Luke 6:36 - *Be merciful as God is merciful*

c. Matthew 12:1-7 - *Mercy and not sacrifice. Mercy over ritual and tradition*

i. Hosea 6:6

ii. C.f., Matthew 9:13 - *Go and learn what this means...*

II. Examples from Jesus' life

a. **Compassion/mercy for the weary and exhausted**

i. Matthew 9:35-38

1. Definitions

- a. Fainted = to be weary, exhausted (emptied, depleted, drained), lose heart.
- b. Scattered abroad = to throw on the ground, to throw off or throw away, to cast out.

2. Jesus' attitude - *"The harvest truly is plenteous"*

- a. Tender, hopeful

- b. **Compassion/mercy for those who interrupt and for the needy**
 - i. Matthew 14:13-21
 - 1. Mark 6:30-34
 - 2. Jesus' attitude – Teach, heal, feed/provide
 - c. **Compassion/mercy for the hungry**
 - i. Matthew 15:29-32
 - 1. Luke 6:21
 - 2. Isaiah 44:1-4; 55:1-3
 - d. **Compassion/mercy for the blind**
 - i. Mark 10:46-52
 - e. **Compassion/mercy for those with relationship issues, for those who have hurt themselves/are hurting themselves**
 - i. Matthew 15:21-28
 - ii. Matthew 17:14-21
 - 1. Mark 9:14-29
 - iii. Mark 5:1-20
 - f. **Compassion/mercy for sinners**
 - i. Mark 1:40-42
 - ii. Matthew 9:11-13
 - g. **Compassion/mercy for those who are hurt, who are in need**
 - i. Luke 10:25-37
 - h. **Compassion for enemies**
 - i. Luke 22:47-51
- III. Summary points
- a. Mercy...
 - i. Sees the best outcome for those that others have cast off
 - ii. Bothers where others don't bother
 - iii. Triumphs where the law fails
 - iv. Is tender when others interrupt
 - v. Sacrifices when others are in need
 - vi. Heals when others are hurt
 - vii. Pays when others cannot
 - viii. Loves even when it's hard
 - ix. Forgives when others do wrong
 - x. Feeds those who are hungry
 - xi. Teaches those who don't understand
 - xii. Helps those who cannot help themselves
 - xiii. Frees those bound by the enemy