

Mercy Moves

John Cole / General

The Journey, Becoming a Disciple / Mercy; Reconcile; Grace and Union / Matthew 5:7; Hebrews 2:16–18

› SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:7 KJV 1900

Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Hebrews 2:16–18 KJV 1900

¹⁶ For verily he took not on *him the nature of* angels; but he took on *him* the seed of Abraham.

¹⁷ Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

› INTRO

10,000 Sermon Illustrations God Be Merciful

God Be Merciful

John Wesley made this entry in his diary on his seventy-second birthday, “God be merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18:13).

God expects those of us who have received Him mercy to be merciful to others.

Luke 6:36 KJV 1900

³⁶ Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Consider this parable from Jesus:

Matthew 18:21–35 KJV 1900

²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

²² Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

²³ Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

²⁴ And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

²⁵ But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

²⁶ The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

²⁷ Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

²⁹ And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

³⁰ And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

³¹ So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

³² Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

³³ Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

³⁴ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

› PROPOSITION

Not only does God expect us to share His mercy, but **God's mercy to us moves us to give mercy to others.**

› TRANSITION

Mercy moves us to . . .

#1 REPRESENT THE UNREPRESENTED

vs 17 “. . . that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest . . .”

› Prop: vase with reed

10,000 Sermon Illustrations Hand of Mercy

Hand of Mercy

Nowhere in the Old or New Testament do we find an excuse to kick a man when he is down. Rather, we are encouraged to extend the hand of mercy to anyone who is in trouble.

British author John Hunter points out how the mention of a “smoking flax” in Isaiah 42:3 illustrates this truth. Though the verse applies to Christ, it has a lesson for all believers. According to Hunter, Middle Easterners used a simple oil lamp to light their homes. It was a small clay vessel with the front end pinched together to form an opening. A piece of flax, serving as the wick, was inserted through the small hole until part of it was submerged in the oil. When the flax was saturated, it could be lighted. It would then burn with a soft, warm glow. But when the oil in the lamp was consumed, the flax would dry out. If it was ignited again, it would give off an acrid, dirty smoke, making the vessel offensive and useless. Now, you might think that the only thing to do would be to crush and discard the wick. But that

would accomplish nothing. If you simply refill the lamp, the wick could burn brightly again.

Occasionally God's people temporarily "run out of oil." They become like the smoking flax because they are ill-tempered and offensive. But fellow believers should not abandon them or become angry and impatient with them. Rather, they should seek to restore them by being merciful and understanding. By supporting them with prayer and expressions of concern, they can help them burn again with the soft, warm glow of Christian love. - D.C.E.

Our Daily Bread, August 9

Focus on their potential.

- With God in prayer
- With man in positive conversation without shaming
- With themselves with genuine praise and levels of trust
- With leaders with positive recommendations

| Barnabas representing Paul to the disciples in Acts 9

#2 RECONCILE THE DIVIDED

vs 17 ". . . to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."

10,000 Sermon Illustrations Unopened Letters

Unopened Letters

A childhood accident caused poet Elizabeth Barrett to lead a life of semi-invalidism before she married Robert Browning in 1846.

There's more to the story. In her youth, Elizabeth had been watched over by her tyrannical father. When she and Robert were married, their wedding was held in secret because of her father's disapproval. After the wedding the Brownings sailed for Italy, where they lived for the rest of their lives. But even though her parents had disowned her, Elizabeth never gave up on the relationship. Almost weekly she wrote them letters. Not once did they reply.

After 10 years, she received a large box in the mail. Inside, Elizabeth found all of her letters; not one had been opened! Today those letters are among the most beautiful in classical

English literature. Had her parents only read a few of them, their relationship with Elizabeth might have been restored.

Daily Walk, May 30, 199

Pay the price of unity, for you and for others.

› **Turn to Matthew 18**

Matthew 18:21–35 KJV 1900

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³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

ILL: David and his son, Absalom. If David had forgiven and reconciled, he likely would have avoided civil war and the death of his son.

#3 RESCUE THE NEEDY

vs 18 “. . . he is able to succour them that are tempted.”

“Succour”: βοηθέω help; come to the aid of

RESCUE THE PERISHING

Fanny Crosby, the blind hymn writer, wrote so many hymns we love to sing. When she was up in years, she visited the Macaulay Rescue Mission in NYC. She stood before a crowd of homeless, drug-addicted, alcoholic men. She said, “is there a young man here who doesn’t have a mother?” One young man timidly raised his hand. He explained that his mother died when he was very young.

Fanny Crosby asked the young man to come to the front. She gave him a big hug and kissed him on the cheek. It touched her heart so much that she went home that night and wrote these words, “Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, snatch them in pity from sin and the grave, weep o’er the erring one, lift up the fallen, tell them of Jesus the Mighty to save.”

Years later, Ira Sankey was singing for D.L. Moody in St. Louis. He rose to sing that song, but before he sang, he told that story. As he told the story, a middle-aged man jumped up and shouted, "It was me! I'm the young man she wrote about. She kissed me. I could never get away from that moment."

As a result of one simple kiss.....a young man came to Christ and his entire life was changed!

› CONCLUSION

Mercy moves us to . . .

1. Represent the unrepresented
2. Reconcile the divided
3. Rescue the needy

Have you received God's mercy through salvation?

Is mercy moving you?