



God's Pathway to Wholeness: Be Merciful

Greg Wendschlag May 14, 2023

"Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy." Mt. 5:7

- Mercy - Kind or compassionate treatment of an offender or adversary when severity is expected or deserved, a disposition of forgiveness.

*We all have offended and been adversaries of God.
We deserve God's judgment. Yet God shows us His mercy,
kindness and compassion and He forgives us.*

- Mercy has the right to judge and the power to judge but chooses not to judge.
- Mercy is about freedom, freeing yourself and freeing others.

Why should I show mercy to others?

Matthew 18:21-35 – The Merciful King and the Unmerciful Servant

1. Because I needed mercy and God gave it to me.
2. Showing mercy is evidence that we understand our own desperate condition.
3. Showing mercy is evidence that we understand the heart of God.
4. If we do not give mercy, we will not receive mercy.

"Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful." James 2:13

I want to be more merciful. How do I develop that kind of heart?

1. Recognize your own spiritual depravity.
2. Recognize God's unconditional mercy.
3. Recognize the hypocrisy of receiving without giving.
4. Recognize the image of God in every person.

Consider these thoughts as we pray

1. Have I truly realized the severity of my sin and the magnitude of God's forgiveness?
2. Have I received God's unconditional mercy?
3. Am I living in hypocrisy by receiving mercy but refusing to forgive someone?
4. God, help me to see your image in all people and help me to love them like you do.