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MINISTRIES®

# MERCY

“...the Lord’s mercies...are new every morning...”  
—Lamentations 3:22-23

## Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

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# MERCY

## Receiving God's Mercy

### I. Mercy And Grace

- A. **Hebrews 4:15-16** – By faith, BOLDLY draw near to the throne of grace and receive mercy and grace.
  - 1. **Lamentations 3:22-23** – God's mercy is NEW every day!
- B. Grace is God's willingness to use His power to help those who do not deserve it.
  - 1. Grace is God giving us what we do not deserve –  **blessing**.
- C. Mercy (defined/Webster's) – Kindness in excess of what may be expected or demanded by fairness; a disposition to forgive; forbearance and compassion.
  - 1. Mercy is God not giving us what we do deserve –  **punishment**.
  - 2. Mercy is manifested in actions that alleviate the misery of a person; often, that misery being caused by his or her own mistakes or sins.
  - 3. Mercy is a force, a Fruit of the Spirit, and one of the facets of God's character.
- D. Example: A person gets sick due to not taking care of his or her body.
  - 1. Mercy and truth are met together – face truth, repent, obtain grace to forgive sin, and ask for mercy.

Grace goes before mercy – only the forgiven may be blessed.

2. Grace is God's attitude toward the lawbreaker and rebel.
3. Mercy is His attitude toward those in distress.
4. William Barclay and Dick Mills' Word Studies – Mercy is compassionate to those in trouble, even if their trouble is their own fault.

## II. Obtain Mercy By Faith.

- A. Mercy is God's character (a character trait). God is merciful.
- B. Selected Scripture regarding God's mercy:
  1. **Psalm 136** (See **Verses 23-24.**)
  2. **Psalm 103:8**
  3. **Psalm 13** (See **Verse 5.**)
  4. **Psalm 31:7-16**
- C. We **receive mercy** through faith.

## III. Mercy, Grace, And Peace

- A. You will never enjoy peace unless you learn to **RECEIVE** grace and mercy.
  1. **I Timothy 1:2** – Grace, mercy, and peace be yours from God the Father.
  2. **II John: 2-3** – Because of the Truth – grace, mercy, and peace will be with us forever.

- B. Receiving has zero to do with getting, earning, or deserving.
- C. **Hebrews 4:16** – Receive mercy
  - 1. **Psalm 85:10** (KJV) – *Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*
  - 2. **Isaiah 41:8-14** – Worm Jacob
- D. **Matthew 12:7** – Go and learn what this means: “I desire mercy and not sacrifice.”
  - 1. Trade your sacrifices of **dead works** for mercy.
  - 2. **Hebrews 6:1; 9:14** – **Dead works**

Dead works do not bring peace.

#### IV. The Mercy Seat

- A. The ark had a lid or a seat of pure gold called the Mercy Seat. The tablets of stone were in the ark. The Law was shut up in the ark with the lid or Mercy Seat covering it.
  - 1. Seat signifies rest.
  - 2. It was the only seat in the house of God.
  - 3. The mercy of God sat there – God Himself sat there.
  - 4. He met with man there.
  - 5. Mercy is the meeting place.
- B. Jacob
  - 1. **Genesis 25:21-26** – Jacob is born.

The taking hold of the heel: “You are not getting ahead of me. I will take hold and make my own way.”

2. **Genesis 25:28-34** – Gaining through devious means  
  
**Genesis 27:1-30** – Jacob gets his father’s blessing by trickery, lies, and deceit.
  3. **Genesis 28:10-22** – Jacob’s ladder
    - a. The ladder is a type of the Cross – set up on earth reaching into heaven; the angels working.
    - b. Jacob sees light – vows a vow.
  4. **Genesis 29:20-30** – Jacob works seven years for Rachel, and Laban tricks him with Leah. He works seven more years.  
  
He was reaping what he had sown.
  5. **Genesis 31:3** – God tells Jacob to go home.
    - a. Jacob **again** does it his way!
    - b. **Genesis 31:19-28** – Jacob sneaks and steals away (flees secretly).
  6. **Genesis 32:1-7** – Jacob fears Esau.
    - a. **Verses 8-12** – It is time for a showdown.
    - b. **Verses 22-32** – Jacob and God wrestle.
- C. **Zephaniah 3:13-19** – When you understand mercy, you will refuse to let God go until He blesses you – even if you leave limping.





# Being Merciful To Others

Foundation Scripture:

**Matthew 5:7** – Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

## I. Developing A “Merciful Attitude”

A. Sowing and reaping

**Luke 6:35-38** – How we treat others is sowing seed.

B. **Hebrews 5:1-2** – We should remember that we need mercy ourselves and be merciful to others.

1. Learn to major in mercy.

2. Be imitators of God!

C. **Matthew 7:1** – *Do not judge and criticize . . .*

1. **James 2:8-13** – Mercy triumphs over judgment.

D. **Matthew 18:33** – You should have mercy on your fellow believers and friends.

1. **Ephesians 2:4-5** – God gives us mercy that we do not deserve.

## II. Behavior And Attitude

A. **Colossians 3:12-14** – Clothe yourself with merciful behavior.

B. **John 8:7** – Let him among you without sin cast the first stone.

1. **Romans 14:1; 15:1-3** and **Galatians 6:1-3** – Weak believers

2. **John 7:24** – Judge not according to appearance.
  3. **John 8:15** (KJV) – *Ye judge after the flesh . . .*
- C. **John 12:47** – Jesus came to save, not to judge.
1. You can't help people, not even in prayer, until all judgment is turned over to **THE JUDGE**.

### III. A Fruit Of The Spirit

- A. The work of the Spirit is a result of the Spirit's active energy in our lives.
- B. Fruit is a result of the Spirit's indwelling presence.
- C. **Galatians 5:19-22** – Works of the flesh – but the Fruit of the Spirit signifies oneness or one source. Believers are not complete (experientially) without all nine fruits.
- D. **John 12:24** – An evidence of death
1. **James 1:1-4** – Trials prepare the way.
  2. Teaching prepares the way.
  3. As the shell cracks, the fruit comes forth.
  4. The patience of **James: Chapter 1** plus all the others
- E. The manifestation of character
1. We have had a lot of charisma without character.
  2. Gifts without character
  3. **Matthew 12:33** – A tree is known by its fruit.
- We are known by fruit – not knowledge, gifts, or ministries.

4. **James 3:1** – Not many should become teachers.

Walk the walk or don't talk the talk.

- F. Goodness – The Fruit of the Spirit is in all **goodness (Ephesians 5:9)**.

1. Fruit is for being good to others.

- a. **Psalm 23:6** – *Surely or only goodness, mercy, and unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life, and through the length of my days the house of the Lord [and His presence] shall be my dwelling place.*

- b. **Psalm 145:7** – *They shall pour forth [like a fountain] the fame of Your great and abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of Your rightness and justice.*

- G. Example: Janet and the pressure cooker





