

Mercy of God

Roxborough Bible Chapel

January 28, 2018

Outline

- General - Why study the characteristics of God
 - Merciful is just one of these characteristics
- Mercy – Definition
 - Contrasted with grace (but also used with grace)
- Understanding man's sinfulness helps us appreciate how abundant and marvelous is God's mercy (Psalm 51)
- Results of Knowing God's Mercy – Showing mercy to others
- Balancing mercy and justice
- Ask God for wisdom to know when to show mercy and when to demand justice (Not enabling people)

General - Characteristics of God

What are some Characteristics (Attributes) of God?

Eternal	Loving
Omniscient	Gracious
Omnipotent	Merciful
Omnipresent	Faithful
Infinite	Immutable
Wise	Trinity
Sovereign	Just
Holy	Good

General - Characteristics of God

- Why is it important to study the characteristics of God?
 - To know God better
 - Knowing God = Salvation
 - John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
 - Stating it negatively:
 - 1 John 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
 - To glorify God (praise and worship Him for who He is)
 - Hosea 6:6 For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.
 - Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!
 - Knowing God better helps us to live appropriately (pleasing God)

Mercy of God - Definition

- God not punishing us as our sins deserve (Not receiving what we deserve)
- Actively Compassionate
 - Withholding punishment from offenders who deserve it.
 - In a broader sense, it means to help others in need who cannot help themselves
- Contrasted with grace
 - Grace = unmerited favor (receiving what we do not deserve)
 - Grace = God blessing us even though we do not deserve it
- Both mercy and grace are found only in the Lord Jesus Christ
 - Hebrews 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- God's mercy cannot be exhausted
 - Unlike human mercy which can be exhausted

General – Mercy verses

- Luke 18:13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'
- Hebrews 8:12 FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."
- God shows mercy to those who fear His name
 - In Mary's magnification of the Lord during her pregnancy, she said, (Luke 1:49-50) For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy *is* His name. And His mercy *is* on those who fear Him From generation to generation.
- Romans 9:15-16 For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE COMPASSION." So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.
- Rom 11:31-32 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

General – Mercy verses

- Examples of God’s mercy shown to people (people who came pleading to the Lord when they realized their helpless estate and need for a Savior)
 - Restored sight to the two blind men of Matthew 9:27-31 and the two blind men of Matthew 20:29-34 (also Mark 10:46-52 and Luke 18:35-43) which included Bartimaeus. (“Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”)
 - Jesus healed the Gentile woman’s daughter in Matthew 15: 22 “...Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.”
 - Mat_17:15 "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water.

Mercy of God

Psalm 51

- **To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David When Nathan the Prophet Went to Him, After He Had Gone in to Bathsheba.**
- 1 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin *is* always before me.
- 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, *And* blameless when You judge.
- 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.
- 6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Make me hear joy and gladness, *That* the bones You have broken may rejoice.
- 9 Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit.
- 13 *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.
- 14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, *And* my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.
- 16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*; You do not delight in burnt offering.
- 17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.
- 18 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.
- 19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

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Results of Knowing God's Mercy – Showing mercy to others

- Benefits of showing mercy to others
 - Matthew 5:7 Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.
 - Here, Jesus is not referring to the mercy of salvation which God gives to a believing sinner; *that* mercy is not dependent on a person's being merciful
 - The mercy of salvation is a free, unconditional gift.
 - Rather the Lord is speaking of the daily **mercy** needed for Christian living and of **mercy** in that future day when one's works will be reviewed (1Corinthians 3:12-15)
 - If one has not been merciful, that person will not receive mercy; that is, one's rewards will decrease accordingly.
 - Zechariah_7:9 "Thus says the LORD of hosts:
'Execute true justice, Show mercy and compassion
Everyone to his brother.

Balancing mercy and justice

- Justice (God's judgment) on the heathen is coming. He will not be merciful to them since they refuse His way of salvation (Christ).
- God is longsuffering but will not withhold his wrath forever.
 - II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
- Romans 12:19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.
- Psalm 85:10 Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.
 - In human affairs strict adherence to the claims of truth usually prevent the display of love and mercy.
 - But God can shower His steadfast love on His people because all the claims of truth were fully met by the Lord Jesus on the cross.

Ask God for wisdom to know when to show mercy and when to demand justice (Not enabling people)

- Our mercy of others should be an imitation of God's mercy to us
 - Luke 6:36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.
- Knowing God's mercy encourages us to follow Him
 - **Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*

Conclusions

- Study and appreciate God's character
 - Thank and praise Him for who He is
 - Imitate His characteristics
- Compare our sinfulness to God's holiness and appreciate His mercy to us
- Show mercy to others (but don't enable them)