
The Forgiveness of Holiness (Loving Mercy)

The Requirements of Holiness

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Sermon: The Requirements of Holiness: The Forgiveness of Holiness (Loving Mercy)

New Series Messages: “The Joys of Holiness”

- Theme Scriptures:
 - 1 Peter 1:15–16 (AV)¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶ Because it is written, ***Be ye holy***; for I am holy.
 - Micah 6:8 (AV) ⁸ He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?
- Sermon: The Righteousness of Holiness (Doing Justly)
 - Righteousness of The Body
 - Righteousness of The Soul
 - Righteousness of The Spirit

Lesson Text

Micah 6:8 (AV) ⁸ He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Lamentations 3:22–23 (AV)²² *It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.* ²³ *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

Psalms 118:1–4 (AV)¹ O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is* good: because his mercy *endureth* for ever. ² Let Israel now say, that his mercy *endureth* for ever. ³ Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy *endureth* for ever. ⁴ Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy *endureth* for ever.

Introduction

But with the promises of this New Lifestyle of Holiness comes requirements to experience them

Micah 6: ⁸ He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and ***what doth the LORD require of thee***, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

- To Do Justly (Righteousness)
- To Love Mercy (Forgiveness)
- To Walk Humbly (Meekness)

The second requirement we see here is “To Love Mercy”

Mercy is the compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender. It is clemency, grace, leniency, or forgiveness. Mercy implies compassion that forbears punishment even when justice demands it.

We are not only to love the mercy of God, but also to be merciful in our dealings with others.

And herein lies the rub. It’s one thing to receive mercy or forgiveness, but it’s another thing all together to give it; especially when you don’t think the person deserves it.

Luke 17:3–5 (AV)³ **Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. ⁴ And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. ⁵ And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.**

Matthew 18:21–22 (AV)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.**

In the next 12 verses Jesus goes on to tell us an account of a man who owed the king ten thousand talents. A talent was equivalent to about 20 years of labor or \$400,000. This man owed the king the equivalent of 4 Billion dollars. The king demanded that he, his wife, and children be sold into slavery for payment. He begged and was forgiven, shown mercy.

Yet when this man left, he went and found someone that owed him a hundred pence; or the equivalent of \$362. When that guy couldn't pay, he had him thrown in jail. And when the king found out, he became angry and delivered him to the tormentors.

The moral or biblical truth of this story is that God gives us a lifetime of Mercy, new mercy every day; and the least we can do is forgive those who cross us every now and then.

Series and Sermon: The Requirements of Holiness: The Forgiveness of Holiness (Loving Mercy)

“The Love of Mercy, The Compassion of Mercy, and the Endurance of Mercy”

I. The Love of Mercy

Micah 6: ⁸ He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, **and to love mercy**, and to walk humbly with thy God?

The first key to the Forgiveness of Holiness is the Love of God.

John 3:16 (AV)¹⁶ **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

It is not within our human nature to forgive, be compassionate, have forbearance, or show mercy; especially when justice demands punishment.

The problem here is that we can't give something that we don't have.

Matthew 5:43–44 (AV)⁴³ **Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

Because our human nature will not allow us to love our enemies, it takes the Holy Spirit to change our nature so that we can. And since Mercy requires with Love, we need the Holy Spirit to produce the Fruit of the Spirit Love within us.

Galatians 5:22 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, . . . When we allow the Holy Spirit to produce the Love of God within us, we develop the capacity to give mercy, even when it goes against our desire for justice.

II. The Compassion of Mercy

Lamentations 3:22–23 (AV)²² *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.* ²³ *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

The second key to the Forgiveness of Holiness is the Compassion of God

This is about Potential vs. Performance. The Holy Ghost gives us potential (capacity and ability of righteousness), but Holiness is the Performance (the power to live out righteousness).

First, we are given the Love of God which gives us the capacity for Mercy, but then we must produce the Compassion of God so that we can actually perform or give it.

Unfortunately, many people do not perform!

Romans 6:1–2 (AV)¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Simply put, now that we've been given the Holy Ghost, we need to perform holiness. And since we've been given the Love of Mercy, we need to produce the Compassion of Mercy.

Luke 12:48 (AV)⁴⁸ . . . **For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.**

Galatians 5:22 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, . . .

The Holy Spirit produces Gentleness or Compassion so that we can give mercy. And since God gives us new mercy every day, we need to give each other mercy every day.

Since we've been given so much Mercy, it is incumbent, dare I say mandatory that we give it.

III. The Endurance of Mercy

Psalms 118:1–4 (AV)¹ O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is good*: because his mercy *endureth* for ever. ² Let Israel now say, that his mercy *endureth* for ever. ³ Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy *endureth* for ever. ⁴ Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy *endureth* for ever.

- The first key to The Forgiveness of Holiness is receiving the Love of Mercy
- The second key to The Forgiveness of Holiness is giving the Compassion of Mercy
- The final key to The Forgiveness of Holiness is the Endurance of Mercy.

So now that we have both the capacity of Mercy from God's Love, and the performance of Mercy from God's Compassion; how much Mercy must we give? How long must we give it? How many times should we give it? How long must we endure giving it?

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Matthew 18:21–22 (AV)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.

Some people will give you one chance to mess up and then they are through with you. Others will play baseball with you and give you three strikes and you're out. Peter offered to give them 7 chances.

But with God, his mercy never runs out, his mercy endures forever. And as long as you are giving out mercy, you will never run out of mercy.

Matthew 5:7 (AV)⁷ Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

So, what is the key to the endurance of mercy? Giving thanks!

Psalms 118:1–4 (AV)¹ O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is* good: because his mercy *endureth* for ever.

When they come at you with drama, give thanks for his mercy endures forever.

When they disappoint you, give thanks for his mercy endures forever.

When they lie on you, give thanks for his mercy endures forever.

When they betray you, give thanks for his mercy endures forever.

When they hurt you, give thanks for his mercy endures forever.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Forgiveness of Holiness (Loving Mercy))

Lesson Text

- Micah 6:8, Lamentations 3:22–23, Psalm 118:1–4

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *The Love of Mercy*

II. *The Compassion of Mercy*

III. *The Endurance of Mercy*

Questions

I. **Getting to Know “Me”**

1. As a child growing up, which one were you: 1) a bully, 2) the one bullied, or 3) the defender of the bullied?
2. What is the greatest change you’ve made within yourself over the past 12 months?

II. **Into the Bible**

1. Study Romans 12:17-21. What are some good reasons to forgive someone who has hurt you? Do you have to feel forgiving in order to do the loving actions in verse 20?
2. Read 4:32 and Psalm 103:12. Does forgiving mean also forgetting the wrong committed against you? Explain your answer.

III. **Life Application**

1. Do you have someone in your life you are having a hard time to forgive? If so, why? What are some practical steps you can take in forgiving this person?
2. There is a saying “to forgive and forget.” Is this possible for the believer? How?