

A refusal to condemn opens your heart
to an ocean of mercy.

PULPIT CURRICULUM

MERCY OVER JUDGMENT

Matthew 9:9-13

1. REVIEW

Why do you think our natural bent is to NOT show mercy?

Read Matthew 9:9-13. Why do you think Jesus gently exhorted the Pharisees to go and learn mercy? What does this show us about His priorities for us?

What does showing mercy look like for a Christ-follower? Give an example of it if you have one.

2. ASSESS

Is mercy your first response? Why or why not?

In what situations (or with what people) do you find it most difficult to choose mercy over judgment?

You are responsible not just for what you do, but also for the impression you give. Considering the various means of communication you've used in the last month, have you given the impression of mercy or judgment to those closest to you?

3. APPLY

Mercy must be learned and practiced. It's not a natural response or an easy thing to accomplish. How will you practice showing mercy this week? Be specific with people and situations.

It's quite possible that you've come to realize mistakes you've made by not offering mercy in the past. With whom do you need to resolve offense? How will you do so?



Prayer 2 of 11

Lord, we pray for the Freedom House, and for everyone who will seek deliverance from their addictions there. May you give us all continuing freedom from the various things we rely on other than You. Give us all strength in our weakness, O Lord. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

SERMON NOTES & QUOTES

1A) The necessity of resolving offense... Proverbs 10:12

1b) or the Lord is blasphemed. Romans 2:24

2b) or Satan gets a foothold. Ephesians 4:26, 27

2A) Shifting our paradigm from judgment to mercy. 2 Samuel 24:10-14

3A) Mercy must be learned. Matthew 9:9-13

4A) Mercy refuses to condemn others. John 8:1-11

5A) Mercy triumphs over judgment. James 2:13

The Bible is a message from God - through truth - about love.

Judgment is an assement of behavior that amounts to accusation/trial/verdict/sentencing.

Mercy is the decision to do nothing when punitive action is warranted.

Make a mercy play when you feel judgment rising. Sometimes doing nothing is great victory.

If you're hateful and harsh in the horizontal, Jesus would almost prefer you pass on the vertical.

Recognition of personal sinfulness mitigates against judgment and leads to a heart of mercy.

MY GROUP'S COMMITMENTS

5 DAY READING PLAN

DAY 1

Matthew 9:9-13

DAY 2

Matthew 23

DAY 3

Romans 2

DAY 4

John 8:1-9

DAY 5

James 2:13

To learn more about studying the Bible, look for the "Essentials of Growing in Christ" class starting soon at your campus.