



Shared Attributes of God: Mercy

Grace vs. Mercy

- ▶ **Grace** is when God gives us a good thing when we don't deserve it. Grace pours out blessings we don't deserve. Grace is God's unmerited favor.
- ▶ **Mercy** is the act of withholding deserved punishment. Mercy is not being given a bad thing that we do deserve.
- ▶ **Mercy** can be shown in the form of compassion, pity, forgiveness, healing, and so on...
- ▶ The word mercy is roughly used about 126 times in the bible.

Guilty as Charged

- ▶ Isaiah 43: 26-27 "Review the past for me, let us argue the matter together; state the case for your innocence. Your first father sinned; those I sent to teach you rebelled against me."
 - ▶ When we are in front of the living God who amongst us can declare that we are not guilty of sins?
 - ▶ We are guilty as charged. Romans 3:22-23 "There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- ▶ We don't have a case. We are guilty as charged. There is not a day that goes by where we don't sin...either by action or in thought.

Key verses regarding His mercies

▶ **Exodus 34:6-7**

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin."

▶ **Psalms 23:6**

Surely your goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

▶ **Psalms 100:5**

For the Lord is good and his *love* endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Versus...

▶ **2 Corinthians 1:3**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of *compassion* and the God of all comfort.

▶ **Ephesians 2:4**

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy.

▶ **James 5:11**

As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

People of Nineveh

- ▶ Jonah's Commission: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." Jonah 1:2
- ▶ Jonah proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." Jonah 3:4
- ▶ Jonah 3:5-10
 - ▶ Citizens of Nineveh believed God. Called on God in repentance. Gave up their evil ways and violence.

People of Nineveh...

- ▶ Jonah 3:10
 - ▶ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.“
- ▶ Jonah 4:11
 - ▶ “And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15: 11-32

- ▶ The bible says the son was lost and dead. The son was lost because he walked away from His father, and he was dead because he chosen to live a sinful life.
- ▶ But as soon as the son repented and asked for forgiveness the father welcomes him back home.
- ▶ The father says, “For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

“Mercy gave the prodigal son a second chance, and grace gave him a feast.”

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Matthew 18: 21-35

“As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Questions to consider...

- ▶ Do we recognize God's undeserving mercy towards us?
- ▶ Do we constantly thank Him for this unmerited mercy?
 - ▶ Do we tell others about this merciful God?
- ▶ Do we show mercy when the situation presents itself?