

How to be Merciful

Luke, Pt. 19

Luke 6:27-36

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I. INTRODUCTION

- i. Welcome
- ii. **Luke 6 – The Sermon on the Mount.**
 - Luke gives us five fruits that grow on the Christian.
 - Calling this: HOW TO SPOT A CHRISTIAN
 - We want to have the humility to examine ourselves to see if we bear these fruits.
 1. Jesus said in Luke 6 – You know a tree by its fruit.
 - There are lot of people who wear the label of Christian or wear the jersey for team Jesus...but it's not the label that matters...its if they show evidence of God's transforming grace in their lives.
- iii. **Last week – Christians play the long game and don't waste their time with the short game.**
 - We know that we will spend eternity in God's Kingdom and everything our soul longs for will be given to us there.
 - So, we don't waste our time trying to fill every void or longing with the things of the world.
 - And this frees us to love and serve our neighbors and not just organize our entire life around my happiness and my fulfillment.



II. THIS WEEK

a. Here is the next fruit that Jesus tells us grows on the one who truly follows Jesus.

i. Merciful.

- When someone wrongs them...
- When they see someone in need or suffering...

ii. They are merciful.

b. So, let me read what Jesus says about this...

- **Read Luke 6:27-36 (ESV)...**



III. DEFINING MERCY

a. Now, when it comes to this text...many people seek to de-radicalize what Jesus is saying.

- i. Is Jesus really saying...
 - Turn the other cheek...
 - Don't demand my stuff back if someone steals from me...
 - Lend to people that I know won't pay me back...
- ii. What we're talking about here is mercy.
 - And the very definition of mercy is that we're having compassion on someone, we're forgiving someone for something...and they don't deserve it.
 - Mercy is a radical idea.

b. Now, we are talking about two kinds of mercy.

- First - when someone hurts us...what is our response.
 - Second - When someone needs something from us...what is our response.
 - So, let's talk about both for a second...
- i. Turn the cheek...
 - I don't think Jesus is saying that if someone comes and slaps you in the face...
 1. If someone hurts you, insults you...
 2. That the godly thing to do is to take it, let it rip you apart inside, stuff it, and get bitter and angry on the inside, yet on the outside remain stoic as if your unmoved by being hurt.



- ii. And if someone needs something from us...asks us for money...
 - I don't think Jesus is saying that you should reluctantly give this person money and get all torn up inside with bitterness because you know your not going to get it back but on the outside your trying to be a good Christian and look the part...

c. No, Jesus is always more concerned about the condition of your heart versus the external behavior.

- i. And the fruit that grows on the Christian is they have a heart and a soul that is merciful.
 - So, when someone hurts us...what I think it means to be merciful is that there is an absence of retaliatory desire in us...because we're merciful.
 1. That's even more radical.
 - Or when someone needs something from us...there is an absence of a self-protective desire in us...meaning that the filter through which we decide if we're going to help this person is not what is best for me and if I am going to get my money back...but the filter is mercy.
 1. Again, even more radical.
- ii. And this goes without saying...
 - If your in an abusive situation...in your marriage, at work, in your home, or anywhere else...
 - Turning the other cheek and being merciful does NOT mean we allow the person to keep abusing us.



1. Your not being unmerciful by getting out of that situation and reporting that person to the authorities.
- iii. No, again, what it means to be merciful is to have a heart that is absent of a retaliatory desire if someone hurts us...and to have a heart that is absent of a self-protective desire if someone is in need.



IV. BOXES – LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

a. Earthy Box – Contains everything in life that we find precious.

- External Things
- Internal Things
- i. But the thing about this box is that...well it's a fragile box.
 - It doesn't provide much protection of all the things that are inside of it.
 - Meaning that all of these things are vulnerable and other people are a threat to these things...
 1. Examples of external.
 2. Examples of internal.
- ii. So, here's the thing: *When someone hurts us or needs something us...they are a threat to what is most precious to us...and therefor it is impossible to be merciful.*
 - Examples...
 1. Spouse saying something hurtful...
 2. Boss being unfair...
 3. Someone slandering you...
 4. Someone stealing something from you...
 5. Someone asking you for help...
 - Listen...you can't be merciful if people are a threat to what is most precious to you.



V. HEAVENLY BOX

a. Let me read you a Scripture.

- 1 Peter 1:3-5 (NLT)

i. Let me show you a different box...

- Road Case – Secure – Indestructible.
- This is your heavenly box.
 1. And what we just read is that you have an inheritance, guarded in heaven for you, that this world cannot touch.

ii. Here is what this means (could preach a hundred sermons on this...)

- True followers of Jesus have placed their faith and their trust in the fact that we have sinned against God and we needed to be rescued...
 1. That my identity and my dignity were stained because I had rejected my creator.
 2. But God, in his MERCY, sent Jesus to rescue us.
 3. And he lived the righteous life that we could not live and died the sinners death that we deserved to die.
 4. And in doing that, Jesus has taken your **IDENTITY AND DIGNITY** and he has declared you forgiven, beloved child of God.
 5. Heavenly Box.
- Rose again from the dead.
 1. **FUTURE**
 2. Heavenly Box
- He has taken your **PURPOSE**
 1. On mission. Ambassador. Minister of reconciliation. Ministers of the mercy of God.



- iii. And he has taken these things that are by far the most precious to us and he has **SECURED** them in heaven for you.
- No one can touch them. No one and threaten them.



VI. APPLICATION

a. But we still have our earthly box...and there are some good things in here that other people can and will threaten.

- i. We are not guaranteed any of these things in this life.
 - The Bible is very clear that we live in a broken and sinful world and that we will experience suffering.
- ii. But if you are in Christ...your identity, your purpose, and your future are secure.

b. So, here is how this plays out...

- i. If I look to my MONEY to secure my FUTURE...it will be impossible for me to be merciful.
 - If someone comes to me asking for money...that self-protective desire is going to pop-up.
 - But, if I know my FUTURE is secure in Christ, kept in heaven for me...my money is now something I can be merciful with.
- ii. CAREER -> PURPOSE
- iii. RELATIONSHIPS -> DIGNITY

c. Here's the Key...

- i. Because, in His mercy towards us, Christ has secured our IDENTITY, our DIGNITY, our FUTURE, and our PURPOSE.
 - It changes our relationship with these things (EXTERNAL ITEMS).
 - I no longer see these things as what I look to secure my identity, my dignity, my future, and my purpose.



- ii. I now see these things as gifts that God has given me to invest, and to steward for His purposes.
- These items now play a completely different role in my life.
 - And when people threaten them...I can now be merciful instead of defensive...
 1. When people insult me...I don't need to retaliate...
 2. When people steal from me...I don't need it back....
 3. When someone cuts me off in traffic...I don't need to curse at them...
 4. When someone asks for money, I don't need to get all bent out of shape...
 - Because I have been secured by Christ.



VII. EXAMINE

a. So, let's examine ourselves...

- Do I see these things (external items) as what I look to, to secure my FUTURE, my IDENTITY, my PURPOSE?
- It's going to be hard to grow the fruit of mercy if I do.

b. But Christ has rescued us from a life of anger, bitterness, anxiety, stress, retaliation, and greed.

- i. And here is how you grow this fruit.
 - You cannot grow the fruit of mercy until you become more aware of God's radical mercy upon you.
- ii. Where would any of us be...
 - ...if Christ Himself does not turn the cheek every single day in His mercy and still forgive and still continue to guard our inheritance in heaven for us?
 - Where would any of us be if Christ was stingy when it comes to his grace and blessings upon us.
 - Where would any of us be if we did not have the mercy of God?

c. Grace Hill, let's be the most merciful people that our neighbors, our co-workers, our families encounter.

- i. Let's display Christ to the world by showing others the same radical mercy that God has shown us.

VIII. PRAY

