



SOVEREIGN GRACE®
MINISTRIES

when sinners say

“I Do”

[mercy]

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I. INTRODUCTION

- **Luke 6:27-36**

But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. ³²If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

II. WHERE MERCY STARTS

- **Common Challenges**

1. How do I respond when things aren't going the way I expect?
2. The reality of inherent limitations—sin and weaknesses
3. A cross-section of the culture: hardened fisherman, tax collectors, zealots, prostitutes, the demon possessed, people that are hated and have enemies
4. Crowning summary: Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful (v. 36)
5. All of the mercy mentioned in this passage has already been displayed by God in Christ

III. TWO SIMPLE POINTS FROM VERSE 36

A. Our Heavenly Father is Merciful

1. Mercy describes his disposition of kindness, patience, forgiveness and arms us with a

new vocabulary for the love of God (long suffering, forbearance, compassion)

2. Mercy requires context

- The cross is the supreme illustration of God's mercy
- God's love cannot truly be understood apart from the cross (1 John 3:16)
- The cross makes mercy real because it defines what it means that "God did not treat us as our sins deserved"

3. Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love for which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved ...

4. Mercy has to do with how God related to us in our sin—we deserved anger and judgment, he gave kindness, patience and forgiveness

- Do we know God as a God of mercy?

B. Be Merciful

1. A call to reproduce the Father's mercy for others (v. 36)
2. In marriage, we take off all pretenses and guards
3. As husbands/wives, our marriage becomes a stage to display mercy
4. How we relate to our spouse in their sin reveals our true grasp of the gospel

IV. WHAT DOES MERCY LOOK LIKE

A. Mercy In Kindness

1. Luke 6:35 arms us on how to respond when we're sinned against
2. Kindness is applied compassion in word and deed
3. Romans 2:4
4. The way we respond to sin should look different than the world

B. Mercy In Covering

1. The Bible gives you the opportunity (privilege!) in dealing with sin committed against you: it's called forbearance
 - Not ignoring, just choosing to overlook

- Proverbs 19:11
2. Our assumptions as a husband or wife (and Christians) is that we didn't get what we deserve so we shouldn't hold our spouse (or anyone else!) hostage to their sin
 3. Expressing kindness or forbearance does not mean we neglect the ministry of correction
 - The correction of a merciful spouse seems to carry more weight
 - Mercy helps shape what and how we correct: (1) approach as fellow sinners who received mercy, (2) knowing we could be wrong, (3) wait for patterns, (4) offer observations (not conclusions), (5) look to connect them with the Savior

C. Mercy For Weakness

1. We will encounter others humanity, imperfections and limitations
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:14
3. Weakness can be significant and change can be slow, sometimes indiscernible
 - a. Without mercy for weakness, this becomes the locus for small resentments
 - b. Because of the cross, weakness becomes the place for patient ministry
4. Mercy is a train that tows sympathy behind it
 - a. Hebrews 4
 - b. Mercy stirs sympathy rather than self-righteousness (v. 31)
 - c. How do you respond to the limitations of your spouse?

IV. CONCLUSION

- Luke 6:35 carries a promise—one of reward, not results
- Mercy is given to be shared