

Bible Study: The Character of God

XI. God is Merciful, Compassionate

Passages to read: Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 145:8-9; Matthew 9:13; 20:30-34; Luke 6:35-36; 2Corinthians 1:3-4; Ephesians 2:4-5; Hebrews 2:16-18, 4:16

Related passages for personal study:

Psalm 136; Jonah 4:2; Micah 6:8; Matt. 5:7, 12:7, 23:23; Luke 6:27-38, 10:30-37; Rom. 9:15-18; Phil. 2:1-2,27; James 2:13; Jude vs. 20-25

Description of Mercy:

- * “The outward manifestation of pity”, assuming need and resources to meet the need and “Sympathy for the misery of another”¹ *Ephesians 2:4*
- * “Compassion for the ills of others”² *2 Corinthians 1:3*
- * “Feelings of kindness, goodwill, pity” from “affections, the heart”³ *Philippians 2:1*
- * OT: “Kindness”, “Loving-kindness”, *Exodus 34:7*

Aspects To Consider:

- * **“Grace, mercy, and peace”** *2 Timothy 1:2, Their order and distinction*
- * **Recipients of mercy**
 - o All, *Psalm 145:9*
 - o Physical needs met, *Matthew 20:34*
 - o Sinners made saints, *Ephesians 2:4-5, Titus 3:5*
 - o Saints in life, *Philippians 2:27, Hebrews 4:16*
 - o Saints at Judgment Seat, *2Timothy 1:16-18*
- * **Ministry of mercy: Great High Priest**, *Hebrews 2:17*
- * **“Father of mercies”**, *2 Corinthians 1:3*

How should God’s mercy affect me?

- * Spiritual gift, *Rom. 12:8*
- * Merciful obtain mercy, *2 Sam. 22:26, Matt. 5:7*
- * Linked with reverence, *Luke 1:50*
- * God’s compassion enables us to comfort others, *2 Cor. 1:3-7*
- * We should have forgiving spirits, *Ex. 34:6-7*
- * There should be no limits to our kindness, *Psalm 136*
- * Should cause thankfulness and praise to God, *Psalm 107:8*

Questions for Discussion:

- * **Examples of mercy:** Lord Jesus, *Matt. 9:27*; Good Samaritan, *Luke 10:37*; Publican, *Luke 18:13 (more closely linked with propitiation)*; Job, *James 5:11*
- * Why are mercy and truth often linked?

¹ *W.E. Vine, approx. 28 (noun)+31 (verb)+2 (adjective) times*

² *W.E. Vine, approx. 9 times*

³ *W.E. Vine, approx. 11 times*