

Mighty, Yet Merciful



Definitions of Mercy

- Berkhof: "the goodness...of God shown to those who are in misery or distress, irrespective of their deserts."
- Tozer: "an infinite and inexhaustible energy within the divine nature which disposes God to be actively compassionate."
- Frame: "a sympathetic view of another's distress, motivating helpful action."

Recipients of Mercy

- All His creation
 - Ps. 145:9 - The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.
- Those who put their trust in Him
 - Ps. 103:13 - Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.
 - Luke 1:50 - "And his mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear him."

Recipients of Mercy

- Those who don't put their trust in Him
 - Luke 6:35-36 - "He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*. "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Expressions of Mercy: Care & Provision

- Matt. 15:32 - Jesus called His disciples to Him, and said, "I feel compassion for the people, because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way."
- Acts 17:25 - He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things.

Expressions of Mercy: Physical Deliverance

- Neh. 9:30-31 - You bore with them for many years, And admonished them by Your Spirit through Your prophets, Yet they would not give ear. Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. Nevertheless, in Your great compassion You did not make an end of them or forsake them, For You are a gracious and compassionate God.
- Ps. 69:16-17 - Answer me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness is good; According to the greatness of Your compassion, turn to me, and do not hide Your face from Your servant, For I am in distress; answer me quickly.
- Matt. 9:27 (cf. 15:22; 17:15) - As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"
- Matt. 14:14 - When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

Expressions of Mercy: Physical Deliverance

- Matt. 20:30-31, 34 (cf. Mark 10:47-48; Luke 18:38-39) - two blind men sitting by the road, hearing that Jesus was passing by, cried out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" The crowd sternly told them to be quiet, but they cried out all the more, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us! ... Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him.
- Phil. 2:27 - indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.
- 2 Cor. 1:3 - Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

Expressions of Mercy: Eternal Salvation

- Luke 18:13 - "the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'"
- Eph. 2:4-5 - God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
- 1 Tim. 1:13, 16 - even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief... Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

Expressions of Mercy: Eternal Salvation

- Tit. 3:5 - He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit
- 1 Pet. 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
- Jude 21 - keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.
- Rom. 9:15-16, 18, 23; 11:30-32

Application

- Overflow with gratitude and praise to the Lord (Ps. 89:1).
- Let God's mercy serve as an encouragement to seek salvation from sin and its eternal penalty (Is. 55:7).
- Extend to others the same mercy you've been shown:
 - Assist the poor and others in misery (Pr. 14:21, 31; Dan. 4:27; Luke 6:35-36; Luke 10:37*; 1 John 3:17).
 - Be quick to forgive (Matt. 5:7; 9:13; 12:7; 18:21-35).

Application

- Expect & plead God's mercy in times of trouble (Ps. 107; Lam. 3:22*; 2 Cor. 1:3*; Heb. 2:17-18; 4:15-16; Jam. 5:11).
- As a believer, be quick to confess and forsake your sin, pleading God's mercy (Ps. 51:1; 78:38; Pr. 28:13).
- Wish for and pray for God to extend his mercy to others (Gal. 6:16; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2; 2 John 3; Jude 2).