

**FREE IN HEART and GBF COMMUNION SERVICE**  
**THE MERCY OF JESUS - CLASS 4**  
**5/10/2023**

---

**I. Introduction**

A. Jesus as our example, our means, and our reward.

1. Jesus came to reveal life, to show us God.

Ephesians 2: 4-7 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

**II. Jesus the Merciful**

A. **Go and Learn what this Means**

Matthew 9: 13 But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

1. Mercy in this verse is the Chesed of God. This Hebrew word is variously translated as “mercy,” “lovingkindness,” “steadfast love,” “compassion,” and “goodness.”
2. Jesus invites us to “Go” and “Learn” about His heart as related to His desire for mercy. This is a two-fold process.

Go: This requires “active learning.” There is an intentionality and inner motivation that must fuel our efforts to learn the ways of Jesus. We must “go” forth into life and invite the Holy Spirit to instruct us in His ways in the doing.

Learn: Learning requires humility. We must recognize that we do not know as we ought and we need an Instructor. We need a Teacher to lead us into godliness and holy living. Thankfully, we have a high priest and Example in our faith, Jesus who not only teaches us, but models a life led by mercy.

B. **The Call of Matthew**

Matthew 9:9 “As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector’s booth; and He \*said to him, “Follow Me!” And he got up and followed Him. 10 Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, “Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?” 12 But when Jesus heard this, He said, “It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire compassion, and not sacrifice,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

**FREE IN HEART and GBF COMMUNION SERVICE**  
**THE MERCY OF JESUS - CLASS 4**  
**5/10/2023**

---

1. Matthew the tax-collector called by Jesus; He was an oppressor of his own people; immoral and licentious probably. Jesus looks at him without any qualifiers and says, "Come follow me." He offers to Matthew a place few are given, to one of the 12 apostles that rules and reigns over the 12 tribes of Israel.
2. The religious spirit radically opposes actions of mercy. The religious spirit instead is one of judgment, that there must be proper consequences and punishment for the sin of sinners. The religious spirit is fueled by self-righteousness and the belief that one has it all together but others don't. The truth is, that we are all sinners saved by grace. Paul, chief of apostles, saw himself as "chief of sinners" (1 Tim 1:15).

Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."

1 Timothy 1:15 "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. 16 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."

**C. Mercy's Prerequisite: Brokenness**

Psalms 22:24 "For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from him; But when he cried to Him for help, He heard."

1. Jesus did not come for the people who had it all together. He came for the weak, for the broken, for the ones who knew their need. Jesus is moved in compassion by our weakness. He does not abhor nor despise us when we are weak. He is drawn to us in tender compassion.
2. Our brokenness, our failures, and our weaknesses qualify us to receive the mercy of God.
3. "Were there no guilt in the world, no pain and no tears, God would yet be infinitely merciful; but His mercy might well remain hidden in His heart, unknown to the created universe. No voice would be raised to celebrate the mercy of which none felt the need. It is human misery and sin that call forth the divine mercy." (91, A.W. Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy).

**D. Mercy: The Secret to Loving Jesus**

1. Growing in love for Jesus is directly related to our faith in God's desire to extend mercy. *There is a direct correlation between your maturity and love for Jesus and your ability to cooperate and have faith in His mercy.*
2. There is only one response to the mercy of God: grateful love.

**FREE IN HEART and GBF COMMUNION SERVICE**  
**THE MERCY OF JESUS - CLASS 4**  
**5/10/2023**

---

Micah 7:18 “Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love.”

3. As we grow in confidence in God’s unchanging mercy, we are no longer like children, tossed about by our circumstances or by how we are measuring up. With quiet confidence, we can rest assured in the mercy and grace of God.
4. “If we could remember that the divine mercy is not a temporary mood but an attribute of God’s eternal being, we would no longer fear that it will someday cease to be. Mercy never began to be, but from eternity was; so it will never cease to be. It will never be more since it is itself infinite; and it will never be less because the infinite cannot suffer diminution. *Nothing that has occurred or will occur in heaven or earth or hell can change the tender mercies of our God. Forever His mercy stands, a boundless, overwhelming immensity of divine pity and compassion.*” (91, A.W. Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy)

**E. Mercy: The Enemy of the Religious Spirit**

1. The biggest offense to the religious spirit is the mercy of God. Religion says, “follow the rules, obey the law, do the right works” and you will be justified. The mercy of God declares the unmerited favor bestowed on us completely by His grace, by His choosing. It is completely beyond ourselves, pouring forth boundlessly from the infinite love of the Godhead.
2. “The pious despise mercy because it undermines their confidence in their own accomplishments, in their own zeal and human effort.” Allen Hood
3. Do you find yourself despising people in their weakness, judging their sins, and getting annoyed or frustrated when people don’t have it all together? There is an invitation to discover the great mercies of God and to have your heart renewed to the truth of his eternal lovingkindness. To do so, we must fix our eyes on the mercy of God.

Psalms 26:3 “For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth.

4. For those walking out of religious mindsets or performance mentalities, the only solution is to set one’s eyes continually on the mercy and the lovingkindness of God. As we behold, we become, and our minds are renewed to the truth”

**F. The Transforming Power of Mercy**

1. Mercy does more than cover us in our filthiness and nakedness. As we receive the mercy of God, we are transformed by the love He pours out over us.

Romans 2:4 “...the kindness of God leads you to repentance.”

**FREE IN HEART and GBF COMMUNION SERVICE**  
**THE MERCY OF JESUS - CLASS 4**  
**5/10/2023**

---

2. The level with which you cooperate with the mercy of God is the level with which you will love Him with all of your heart and be changed by His grace. If you don't cooperate with his mercy there are two choices left:

- a) Pride: you thought you did it yourself.

Galatians 2:21 "...the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. 21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

- b) Shame: you live your whole life bargaining with God in your shame, doing penance, keeping a locked heart, and trying to please God.

3. *The thing about mercy is that it makes you new.* Mercy changes you. Mercy always changes you. If you aren't changing in an area of your life, it may be an indicator of a place that you need the mercy of God.

4. There is no greater power than unexpected love.

### **III. The Fruit of a Heart that values Mercy**

#### **A. Empathy/Works of compassion**

##### **1. Healing**

Matthew 14:14 "When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick."

Matthew 20:34 "Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him."

Mark 1:41 "Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and \*said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed.""

##### **2. Instruction**

Mark 6:34 "When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things."

##### **3. Feeding the Multitudes**

Matthew 15:32 "And 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."

##### **4. Prayer**

**FREE IN HEART and GBF COMMUNION SERVICE**  
**THE MERCY OF JESUS - CLASS 4**  
**5/10/2023**

---

Matthew 9:36 “Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then He \*said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. 38 Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

**5. Gentleness**

Matthew 11:28 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

**6. Gentle speech**

Psalms 45:2 “You are fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips; Therefore God has blessed You forever.”

Proverbs 10:11, 21 “The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked... The lips of the righteous feed many.”

Proverbs 22:11 “He who loves purity of heart and grace on his lips, the king will be his friend.”

**7. Forgiveness**

Matthew 18:23 “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. 26 So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ 27 And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ 29 So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ 30 But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. 31 So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. 32 Then summoning him, his lord \*said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ 34 And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. 35 My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

Matthew 5: 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

**IV. The Invitation to Respond**

**FREE IN HEART and GBF COMMUNION SERVICE**  
**THE MERCY OF JESUS - CLASS 4**  
**5/10/2023**

---

- A. We have an invitation to respond to Come and Learn from the mercy of Christ, both His example and in how we choose to receive mercy from Him.
- B. How we respond to God's mercy determines our future in God. We take it in vain by refusing to trust it or refusing to war against those things holding us back. To honor God's mercy, we must refuse both compromise and condemnation.
- C. As we recognize our need for mercy and learn to receive the mercy offered through Jesus by His sacrifice and propitiation, we can enter into depths of transformation and love that will yield the fruit of mercy in us. When the bride stands complete before Jesus, holy and blameless, I believe there will be just one cry in her heart: ""Look what your mercy has done, Lord!""
- D. "A heart won in tenderness is held in the hardest grip imaginable." (Allen Hood)
- E. God, give me grace to respond to the mercy that you offer.

Hebrews 4:15-16 "14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."