

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

4.23.2023

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Are We Merciful

Luke 6: 36

All mankind is set apart for the service of God. This means that all who are born into this world are distinct in God's own way, and we are here for a specific purpose. How does it make us feel knowing that this day and every day, it is not our day, but it belongs fully and completely unto God, therefore, it should rightfully be his to dictate its proper usage. Now, there are those who might say that this would seem to them that we would have no part then in our own day, but a day that is devoted completely and wholly unto God, enhances our relationship with God. Now we recognize the promises and the blessings that God has entrusted us with, which is the responsibility of keeping his righteousness active in a world that is set on promoting its own self-righteous ways.

How do we accomplish our responsibilities for God? With certainty we cannot accomplish this on our own, living in a sinful state, but we must come to walk in the way that God desires us to walk, and it all starts through faith believing in Jesus Christ. Now that we have surrendered to the service that God has set us apart for, by the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit, we have acquired many godly attributes that God has given unto us to use, so that our day might be completely and fully devoted unto him. Therefore, we are commanded to be merciful, sympathetic, tender hearted, responsive, forgiving, and full of compassion, which portrays many of the attributes of God, which we are called to imitate.

2 Timothy 3: 17,....that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works....

As we study and apply the word of God to our lives, it is then that we will mature spiritually, and have the ability to successfully lead others to Christ. We live in a world where deception, through false teachings, will seek to destroy the faith of the believer, which leaves our lives fruitless. But God has furnished us with spiritual instruction concerning how that we should mature in our faith and grow in his grace. Gods desire and intent is for all of mankind to live in total dependence upon him, and not to rely on self-merit or the worldly works of the flesh. Sadly, the church is full of professing believers who are not truly saved, these are those who love themselves and love worldly pleasures more than they love God. If Satan can get us to doubt Gods word, then he can get us to disobey it. From the very beginning of time as we know it, Satan has tried, and has succeeded in persuading mankind to doubt Gods word.

Genesis 3: 1 – 5,....yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree....ye shall not surely die....your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as Gods....

Humanity will always be tempted to doubt, and to turn away from the word of God. It is our choice whether or not to believe that Gods word is not only necessary for our life, but that Gods word is also trustworthy to follow, and to pattern our life after.

This morning we are going to go to the book of Luke and look at a very important godly attribute that he commands us as Christians to follow after.

Luke 6: 36,....be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful....

Like all of Gods characteristics or attributes, they cannot be extended to others, if these characteristics have not been experienced by oneself. Therefore, those who have not yet by faith, believed upon the Lord Jesus Christ, they cannot extend the characteristics of God to others, they cannot be merciful, because mercy is something that can only be given by God himself, which he provides through his love, his grace, and his kindness unto those who do not deserve it. This means that God is being patient with those who deserve his punishment and wrath, because he has compassion for those whom he has created. This does not mean that his judgement one day will not come, it just means that he has chosen to put it off until a later time. Refusing Gods great gift of mercy would be disastrous because refusing mercy means that we are inviting Gods judgement upon ourselves.

Proverbs 29: 1,....he, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy....

For those, and this could mean non-believers and believers alike, who continually reject God and his warnings, they are putting themselves at risk of his judgement.

Psalms 136: 1,....O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endureth forever....

For those who choose to be obedient to his word, Gods mercy will endure, but he does not offer eternal patience to those who are disobedient, and eventually the opportunity to repent will be gone.

2 Peter 3: 9,....the Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance....

Humanity lives for the moment, and for this reason they fall into the mindset that things will go on forever, which causes doubt concerning the Lord's return. Christians should not allow doubt to enter into their minds, because we have the truth of Gods word as a reminder of Christ return for his church. Everyday that passes is one more example of Gods mercy toward mankind, and is another day that we are blessed with the opportunity to be merciful unto others.

So, what does it mean to be merciful just as God is merciful. Mercy is Gods way of withholding a just condemnation that we so rightfully deserve. As Christians, we do not have the power to withhold Gods condemnation, but we do have the power to warn others concerning Gods condemnation, which will fall on those who are disobedient and reject God. For us to show mercy means to share the truth of God word to others, even if it means hurting their worldly emotional feelings, but we are to do it by the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, with the love and compassion of God, so that others might see the willingness, and the desire that we have in our hearts, the desire that they might come to repentance through the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Mark 16: 15 – 16,....he said unto them, go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature....he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned....

As believers, we should desire the repentance of everyone, and we should take no pleasure in the death of those who are wicked. Every Christian should desire that all people repent and come to the knowledge of truth, and we should do so because God desires the same. God patiently waits for people to change; this means that God is patient unto salvation. Nevertheless, a day of judgement will come, which means that one day Gods mercy will eventually turn to judgement for those who continue in disobedience.

Hebrews 9: 27 – 28,....it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement....Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many, and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation....

Here in this passage of scripture we see the realities of being merciful. For the unbeliever it is a shoddy truth which they seek to ignore, but it is a sure fact for all who do not believe. The sting of death is sin, but Christ death became our death, and the judgement of Gods wrath was poured out upon him instead of us. Therefore, death has lost its sting because Christ paid the price for our sin. Are we merciful? If we will tell others about the truth of Gods word in its entirety, which means not only that there is an eternal heaven to gain, but there is also a condemnation of hell for all those who are disobedient and reject Christ, then yes we are learning to be merciful just as our Father also is merciful.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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