

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: Being Merciful

Passage: Luke 6:35-42 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: God's love is demonstrated as disciples exercise mercy over judgment.

I. Mercy doesn't sit on the judgment seat.

- Jesus is prohibiting neither the biblical discernment of actions or situations nor societal justice systems.
- We judge others when we highlight their failure with no sense of responsibility to their restoration.
- Judgmentalism is a condescending look at others through a self-righteous lens of comparison.
- Gossip is almost always the vehicle of communicating judgment and condemnation, even religiously.
- God alone is Judge and He has delegated that responsibility to Jesus who seeks not to judge but save.
- Judgment moves easily to condemnation, deciding things that only God has the authority to declare.

II. Mercy seeks to set free and bless.

- When we seek to forgive/release others from guilt we reflect the beautiful character of our loving God.
- In the same way, the merciful disciple loves to generously bless those who might expect our judgment.
- God blesses our mercy and others will respond favorably, preparing a way to share God's message.

III. Mercy follows the merciful teacher.

- The judgmental ways of the Jewish religious leaders demonstrated their own spiritual blindness.
- The merciful will recognize judgmentalism and refuse to be led in that direction.
- Jesus' true disciples Jesus will follow His instructions becoming like Him as they obey.

IV. Mercy ministers with an accurate self-awareness.

- We fail, we sin, we step off the way. Sometimes only for a moment and sometimes at length.
- We need one another in these times for loving accountability, repentance, and restoration.
- The judgmental one is unable to effectively assist because they refuse to recognize their own sin.
- The merciful one sees their own sin and humbly seeks their own cleansing in rout to help the other.

V. Application

- We all certainly need to confess our tendency to judge and even condemn as the sin that it is.
- How different would things be if we all truly desired that God make us agents of His mercy?
- Who has been the object of your judgment who will receive mercy from you this week?
- Who needs your help getting to the One who can address the speck in their eye today?