

Do You Want To Be Judged Without Mercy?

I. Introduction:

A. Whenever we discuss points such as this, it is important to be sure we do not go to an incorrect extreme (**Deuteronomy 12:32**).

1. So we have to properly handle the Scriptures we will look at (**II Timothy 2:15**).
2. As it pertains to our subject matter, think of how the Pharisees knew one side of their law (**Deuteronomy 19:15-21**), but failed to see the whole matter (**Matthew 9:9-13**; cf. **Hosea 6:6** and **Micah 6:8**).

B. As we address the subject matter of mercy, it is important that we see the Scriptural boundaries. We are told to be merciful with the Lord as our example of such (**Luke 6:36**).

1. God's mercy does not mean that He unconditionally forgives sinners (**Proverbs 28:13**, **Nahum 1:3**, and **Luke 13:1-5**).
2. He teaches us to forgive conditionally as well (**Luke 17:1-4**).
3. Therefore, we must conclude that mercy does not equal forgiveness; but it does mean granting the opportunity for the process of repentance and ultimately forgiveness thereafter (**Nehemiah 9:1-32**).

II. Body: If We Show No Mercy... (**James 2:8-13**).

A. Would you want to face God without Him being merciful (**Psalms 90:11**, **Matthew 10:28**, and **Hebrews 10:26-31**)?

1. Mercy is: "compassion (human or divine, especially active): — (+ tender) mercy. Kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them" (Strong's # G1656).
 - a. Mercy is a greater subject matter than things relative to forgiveness of sin (**Proverbs 14:21**; **31**).
 - b. While we focus so heavily on truth, consider the connection of truth with mercy (**Psalms 85:10** and **Proverbs 16:6**).
2. God's mercy is up to Him (**Romans 9:14-15**).
3. Do we take for granted what others have cried unto God for (**Psalms 86:3**)?
 - a. Have you erred since obeying the Gospel? Is that acceptable to God (**James 1:16**)?
 - b. Think about what Peter said to Simon (**Acts 8:18-24**).
4. Where would you or I be without His mercy (**Titus 3:5** and **I Peter 1:3**; **2:10**)?
5. How can we expect what we won't give (**Proverbs 21:13**)?

B. It is good for us to be merciful (**Proverbs 11:17**; **21:21**).

1. We see mercy in God (**Psalms 103:8**).

2. God should see mercy in us (**Luke 6:27-36**). **Looked at verse 36 earlier in this lesson (introduction; B.).*

C. Mercy and ultimately forgiveness, requires compassion (**Matthew 18:15-35**).

1. Compassion is an expected attribute of Christian (**I Peter 3:8**).

2. Learn to think like Jesus did (**Matthew 15:32-39**, **Mark 6:34**, and **Luke 7:11-17**).

3. Compassion isn't an expression of words, but an action rooted in proper love (**I John 3:14-18**).

D. When repentance/conversion occurs, you have to be willing to forgive (**Mark 11:25-26** and **Colossians 3:12-13**).

1. The Lord is our pattern to follow (**Ephesians 4:31-32**).

2. Again, expect what you are willing to give (**Luke 6:37-38**).

III. Conclusion: *"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy"* (**Matthew 5:7**).