

ABUNDANT KINGDOM LIVING: THE MERCIFUL

For the week of January 26, 2020

Full message available at highpoint.church/currentseries

GOAL:

To understand and practice the discipline of mercy for abundant Kingdom living.

GET GOING:

- Who is someone (historical or personal) that you have tried to model your life after when you were a child or as an adult? What was it about that person that made you want to imitate their behavior?
- Based on this weekend's message, how would you define the word mercy? Also, how would you distinguish the difference between mercy and grace?
- What is one tip you would give to a person who is struggling with mercy?
- Read Matthew 25:31-40. What characteristics of mercy does Jesus model for us in this passage? What characteristic of mercy that Jesus displays are you applying least regularly?

Memory Verse

"But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness" (Matthew 23:23b).



KEEP GROWING:

- Jesus is the embodiment of God's mercy to us, demonstrating mercy perfectly and completely by sacrificially dying on the cross for our sins, and in our place. Either on your own or in your group, think/share about how you have experienced mercy through your salvation story.
- Read Matthew 23:23-24. What is one word or phrase that Jesus says in this passage that surprises you the most? What does Jesus' reaction to the scribes and Pharisees reveal about God's character?
- Why is superficial love (Hosea 6:6) and following religious rituals (Matthew 19:16-22) easier than transformation of the heart (i.e. sanctification - Philippians 2:12-13)? In what ways have you fallen into the trap of superficial love and following rules instead of pursuing a transformed heart?
- How would our witness of Jesus to our communities be different if we were "bent" towards mercy (Philippians 2:3-8) instead of being people who engage in occasional merciful impulses (e.g. paying it forward at the Starbucks drive thru, dropping the occasional dollar for the poor, etc.)?

Bonus Challenge

Based on your understanding of righteousness from the weekend message, which principle of righteousness do you need to:

START living (provides new opportunities for abundant kingdom living)

STOP living (distracts from abundant kingdom living)

CONTINUE living (principle you are already living that cultivates abundant kingdom)

