

6 Week Bible Study

**GRACE & MERCY
PERSONIFIED**

EXPRESSED BY PASTOR KERMIT PERRY

Grace & Mercy Personified

This is good news. We have all sinned and deserve judgment, objects of wrath (Ephesians 2:3). Fortunately for us, God is great in mercy. “The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love” (Psalm 103:8). “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23).

How we need God’s mercy. Where we would show hate and punishment or vengeance, God acts mercifully. And he provides ways to repent and find even more grace and mercy. Because our own nature seeks retribution and justice, the Father’s divine mercy makes us uncomfortable; maybe even skeptical. But God’s goal isn’t punishment, it is reconciliation. The Lord’s mercy becomes necessary for his redemptive justice, restoring us in right relationship. As Jesus followers, we should learn how to act mercifully to others as he has to us.

Personified: to be the embodiment of....

In this series we will see God’s Grace and Mercy manifested in the lives of people who were in need but were not expecting it. It is my prayer that we will be moved to exemplify Christ in our lives by helping others. May the Lord bless you abundantly!

Pastor Kermit Perry

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Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 45:1-15 | Background Scripture: Genesis 37-45

Discussion Starter – Have you ever had a hard time forgiving someone for what they’ve done to you? If so were you ever able to forgive and or reconcile with them?

Recap: After being betrayed and sold into slavery by his own brothers, Joseph comes to prominence in Egypt. Through Joseph’s faithfulness in slavery and prison, he finds favor with God and Pharaoh, ultimately rising to second-in-command in Egypt to help the kingdom through a severe famine. When the famine strikes Joseph’s family, his brothers unknowingly come to him for help, seeking food for their community.

Tears of Joy (Genesis 45:1-2)

1 Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, “Out, all of you!” So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. 2 Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh’s palace.

Discussion Question 1:

- What do these verses tell you about Joseph’s character?

Joseph Reveals Himself (Genesis 45:3-8)

3 “I am Joseph!” he said to his brothers. “Is my father still alive?” But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them. 4 “Please, come closer,” he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. 5 But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. 6 This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. 8 So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.

Discussion Question 2 & 3:

- What do you think Joseph’s brothers were thinking in that moment when he said; “you sold me into slavery?”
- What is the connection between these verses and Joseph’s dreams when he was a teenager?

Take a Message to Dad (Genesis 45:9-11)

9 “Now hurry back to my father and tell him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all the land of Egypt. So come down to me immediately! 10 You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me with all your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you own. 11 I will take care of you there, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you, your household, and all your animals will starve.’”

Discussion Question 4:

- Joseph's father had believed a lie for twenty-two years that his son was killed by a wild animal. Can you imagine how he must have felt hearing this news?

Mercy Personified (Genesis 45:12-15)

12 Then Joseph added, "Look! You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that I really am Joseph! 13 Go tell my father of my honored position here in Egypt. Describe for him everything you have seen, and then bring my father here quickly." 14 Weeping with joy, he embraced Benjamin, and Benjamin did the same. 15 Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers and wept over them, and after that they began talking freely with him.

Discussion Question 5:

- How was Joseph able to kiss and weep over his brothers after all they had done to him? Considering all, would you be able to do the same today?

APPLY THE TEXT

Joseph's mercy shows us the power of forgiveness to heal broken relationships. His brothers had done wrong, and his forgiveness led to overcoming deep wounds and brought the whole family together again. Joseph's story encourages us to extend grace when wronged and realize God can bring good out of difficult situations. His vengeance would have resulted in more violence and hurt, while his mercy brought redemption for all.

MEMORY VERSE

**“Please, come closer,” he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt.
(Genesis 45:4) NLT**

David and Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 9:1-13 NLT

Discussion Starter - Have you ever felt the need to show kindness to someone whether they deserved it or not? Who or what prompted you to show kindness?

Recap: During the time David had favor in Saul's house, David and Saul's son, Jonathan, developed a strong **friendship**. Saul sought to kill David once the young man's popularity had grown, and David went into exile. After Saul and Jonathan's death, David finally becomes king over all of Israel, and he tries to find a way to honor Jonathan's memory.

A Desire to Show Kindness (2 Samuel 9:1-3)

1 One day David asked, "Is anyone in Saul's family still alive—anyone to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" 2 He summoned a man named Ziba, who had been one of Saul's servants. "Are you Ziba?" the king asked. "Yes sir, I am," Ziba replied. 3 The king then asked him, "Is anyone still alive from Saul's family? If so, I want to show God's kindness to them." Ziba replied, "Yes, one of Jonathan's sons is still alive. He is crippled in both feet."

Discussion Question 1:

- What was David's connection with Jonathan, Saul's son?

Go Find Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:4-5)

4 “Where is he?” the king asked. “In Lo-debar,” Ziba told him, “at the home of Makir son of Ammiel.” 5 So David sent for him and brought him from Makir’s home. 6 His name was Mephibosheth; he was Jonathan’s son and Saul’s grandson. When he came to David, he bowed low to the ground in deep respect. David said, “Greetings, Mephibosheth.” Mephibosheth replied, “I am your servant.”

Discussion Question 2:

- Is distance a factor when the need to show kindness is realized?

David Extends Grace (2 Samuel 9:7-8)

7 “Don’t be afraid!” David said. “I intend to show kindness to you because of my promise to your father, Jonathan. I will give you all the property that once belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will eat here with me at the king’s table!” 8 Mephibosheth bowed respectfully and exclaimed, “Who is your servant, that you should show such kindness to a dead dog like me?”

Discussion Question 3:

- Why would Mephibosheth have such a negative response about himself?

Provision Decreed (2 Samuel 9:9-13)

9 Then the king summoned Saul’s servant Ziba and said, “I have given your master’s grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. 10 You and your sons and servants are to farm the land for him to produce food for your master’s household. But Mephibosheth, your master’s grandson, will eat here

at my table.” (Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.) 11 Ziba replied, “Yes, my lord the king; I am your servant, and I will do all that you have commanded.” And from that time on, Mephibosheth ate regularly at David’s table, like one of the king’s own sons. 12 Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica. From then on, all the members of Ziba’s household were Mephibosheth’s servants. 13 And Mephibosheth, who was crippled in both feet, lived in Jerusalem and ate regularly at the king’s table.

Discussion Question 4:

- How many people were blessed in these verses by David’s kindness?

APPLY THE TEXT

We can learn how mercy is more than just sparing someone. Mercy goes beyond, seeking ways to bless others when there is no obligation, just as God extended grace and mercy to us despite our brokenness and previous rebellion.`

MEMORY VERSE

“Don’t be afraid!” David said. “I intend to show kindness to you because of my promise to your father, Jonathan. I will give you all the property that once belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will eat here with me at the king’s table!” (2 Samuel 9:7) NLT

The Woman at the Well

John 4:1-26 NLT

Discussion Starter - When did you discover that God was just what you needed and had been looking for?

A Drink of Water (John 4:1-8)

1 Jesus knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John 2 (though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—his disciples did). 3 So he left Judea and returned to Galilee. 4 He had to go through Samaria on the way. 5 Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. 7 Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." 8 He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

Discussion Question 1:

- What do these verses tell you about Jesus, His divine nature and His Humanity?

Thirsty for Water (John 4:9-15)

9 The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" 10 Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would

give you living water.” 11 “But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? 12 And besides, do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?” 13 Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. 14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.” 15 “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.”

Discussion Question 2:

- Do we sometimes like or dislike someone because of our traditions or preconceived notions?

Christ Reveals Himself (John 4:16-26)

16 “Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her. 17 “I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband— 18 for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!” 19 “Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet. 20 So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?” 21 Jesus replied, “Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. 23 But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—

when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” 25 The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” 26 Then Jesus told her, “I am the Messiah!”

Discussion Question 3

- In what ways do you believe the woman’s life changed after her encounter with Jesus?

APPLY THE TEXT

We see from this lesson that God is not a respecter of person, His will is that all would come to repentance and have everlasting life. And this should be our motivation as well without prejudging them by who we perceive them to be.

MEMORY VERSE

“The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” (John 4:25) NLT

Caught in Adultery

John 8:1-12 NLT

Discussion Starter - Have you ever stood in the need of Mercy, Grace, forgiveness or restoration? If so how did you feel when it was extended to you?

The Trap is Set (John 8:1-4)

1 Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, 2 but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. 3 As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. 4 “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

Discussion Question 1:

- According to Deuteronomy 22:22-24, why did the religious leaders only bring the woman to Jesus? I wonder where was the man?

Jesus Flips the Script (John 8:5-8)

5 The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?” 6 They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. 7 They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” 8 Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Discussion Question 2 & 3:

- What in your opinion is the best way to minister to someone who is struggling with sin?
- How important is it for us to examine our motives as we engage someone struggling with sin

No Condemnation (John 8:9-11)

9 When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman.

10 Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”¹¹ “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

Discussion Question 4 & 5:

- Do you see mercy, grace, or both in this story of the adulterous woman?
- What should have been the next move for the accusers after being convicted?

APPLY THE TEXT

We must realize we can do the same; we can acknowledge the sin and offer mercy and forgiveness for the purpose of redemption and transformation. With God’s heart, we seek restoration rather than punishment. Mercy to others opens the door to new life, including freedom from sin.

MEMORY VERSE

**“So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them,
“He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.”**

(John 8:7) NKJV

The Prodigal Son

(Luke 15:11-32) NLT

Discussion Starter - What are some things that you have learned since coming of age and living life now for yourself?

I Want Mine Now (Luke 15:11-12)

11 To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. 12 The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

Discussion Question 1:

- What does the younger son's request tell you about his character?

Reality Check (Luke 15:13-16)

13 “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. 14 About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. 15 He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. 16 The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

Discussion Question 2 & 3:

- What could have been the worst possible scenario for this young man?

- Have you ever seen this scene played out in real life, could it have been avoided?

A Loving Father (Luke 15:17-24)

17 “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, 19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”’ 20 “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. 21 His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’ 22 “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. 23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, 24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

Discussion Questions 4-5:

- What stands out in these verses to you the most about the prodigal son?
- What do these verses tell you about the Father?

APPLY THE TEXT

As God doesn't hold our past sins against us, even though we once treated him with the same dishonor, we should seek to offer the same mercy to others who have hurt us. God's mercy is always available, no matter how far we have strayed. Like God, we should delight in restoring those who come back to him with a humble heart.

MEMORY VERSE

for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry." **Luke 15:24 NKJV**

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10-25-37 NLT

Discussion Starter - Have you ever felt sorry for someone that's done you wrong? If so did it prompt you to do anything toward helping them?

25 One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" 27 The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" 28 "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" 29 The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Discussion Question 1:

- What may make a "Godly" person want to justify their actions before Christ?

Walk on By (Luke 10:30-33)

30 Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

31 "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. 32 A Temple assistant

walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

Discussion Question 2:

- What could possibly be the reasons for these two religious leaders to walk on by?

Moved With Compassion (Luke 10:33-37)

33 “Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. 34 Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. 35 The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’ 36 “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked. 37 The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

Discussion Question 3

- When moved with compassion to give someone a helping hand are there any precautions to be considered?

APPLY THE TEXT

Mercy involves taking action to relieve people’s suffering, even at personal risk and cost. Jesus challenges us to love our neighbors as ourselves, showing radical mercy and generosity to anyone in need, regardless of their background or our personal differences.

MEMORY VERSE

“Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.” James 1:27 NLT



C H R I S T I A N M I N I S T R I E S