



"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. Matthew 5:13

- We live out God's purpose in the world only when we are not **polluted** by the world.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Matthew 5:6 (ESV)

Mercy gets broken down into two things:

Loving those that don't **deserve** it.

Helping those who can't **help** themselves.

- As Christians, how we treat others **matters**.

...he saved us because of his mercy. It was not because of good deeds we did to be right with him. He saved us through the washing that made us new people through the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 (NCV)

We can only **give** what we have **received**.

Mercy becomes part of our spiritual **DNA**.

How mercy is a part of our spiritual DNA:

- Our heavenly Father is **merciful**.

For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. John 8:44 (NLT)

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36 (NIV)

For the Lord your God is a merciful God... Deuteronomy 4:31 (ESV)

- God has **modeled** mercy for us.

The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. Psalm 145:9 (ESV)

God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4-5 (GNT)

...he (God) saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 (NLT)

- God shows us that mercy is a **lifestyle**.

God has told you what is good and what He requires from you: Do what is right with others, to love being merciful to others, and live humbly in fellowship with God. Micah 6:8 (TEV)

I don't want your sacrifices! I want you to be merciful! Hosea 6:6 (NIV)

- Our **future** rests on mercy.

There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you. James 2:13 (NLT)

Practical ways we can show mercy:

- Be patient with people's **quirks**.

Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Ephesians 4:2 (TLB)

- Help people that are **hurting**.

"Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it." Proverbs 3:27 (TEV)

- Give people **another** chance.

be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ." Ephesians 4:31-32 (CEV)

- Do good to those who **hurt** you.

- Be kind to those who **offend** you.

Blessed are those whose self-centered lives have been crushed by the mercy of God, and as a result, mercy pours from us to others.

VISION:

**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Discuss why this is an important time for the church to show mercy to the world. What does that look like?
- In your own words, how would you define mercy? How does mercy cause us to be different than the world?
- Talk through the points under the sub-heading - "Our DNA of mercy". What does it mean to you that mercy is in your spiritual DNA?
- How does experiencing God's mercy free us to give mercy to others?
- How do you personally see God's mercy displayed in our world and in your life?
- What does mercy as a lifestyle look like? Can you give an example of someone in the scriptures with a lifestyle of mercy? Explain.
- How does our future depend on God's mercy? Read James 2:13; does that remove the fear of judgment when you stand before God?
- Talk through the points - "Practical ways to show mercy". Which of these is most difficult for you to give to others?
- Read and talk about "Dave's Translation" (at the end of the notes)

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Today's Talk..



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