

THE MERCIFUL CHARACTER OF GOD

Pastor Doug Gehman

September 25, 2022

- **Psalm 67:1-7**
- **When we think of mercy – we often think of it in the **NEGATIVE****
- **MERCY makes **ACCEPTANCE** and **BELONGING** possible.**
 - 1 John 4:10-11 Not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and gave him to be a sacrifice for our sins
- **We tend to view MERCY and JUSTICE (Truth) as **CONFLICTING REALITIES****
 - **BUT God is JUSTICE & MERCY... in **PERFECT BALANCE.****
 - **Ps 85:10** Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.
 - **Ps 100:5** the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, His truth endures to all generations.
 - **We like giving justice. We don't like receiving it.**
 - Justice allows us to be **INDIFFERENT.**
 - Mercy is getting involved.
- **With Jesus advent, MERCY became the cornerstone of the New Covenant.**
 - **Matthew 18:21-35** Peter asked, "How often shall I forgive my brother? Seven times?" "No," Jesus said, "70 x 7"
- **Jesus' Sermon on the Mount – "The Better Way of Mercy"**
Matthew 5-7
 - Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy
 - Matt 5:38-41 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

GOD IS SERIOUS ABOUT MERCY – it cost him the life of His Son.



Grace Group Discussion Guide

Week of Sept 25 - Oct 1, 2022

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WARM-UP: *Can you remember a time in childhood when you got caught doing something wrong? How did you feel or respond when you were discovered?*

REVIEW: Read and review the message notes. Be ready to apply what you've read to your own personal life.

APPLY: What stood out to you from the message, the notes, or the scriptures we just read? How will you apply that to your life? // Which is easier for you to give, justice or mercy? Why is that? // Where do you see God's mercies most clearly in your life? // How does recognizing God's mercy help us extend it to others?

PRAY: Pray for each other to both receive and give mercy to those around us. Pray for greater understanding of how much God loves and how we can love Him back. Pray for your V.I.P 5x5.

Bible Reading

- **Sept 25:** Song of Solomon 6-8, Galatians 4
- **Sept 26:** Isaiah 1-2, Galatians 5
- **Sept 27:** Isaiah 3-4, Galatians 6
- **Sept 28:** Isaiah 5-6, Ephesians 1
- **Sept 29:** Isaiah 7-8, Ephesians 2
- **Sept 30:** Isaiah 9-10, Ephesians 3
- **Oct 1:** Isaiah 11-13, Ephesians 4



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