

A Portrait of God: Who Is God and
What Is He Like? The God of Mercy;
Luke 18, Matthew 18, Jonah 4--

Wrath last week. Mercy this week.--

What is mercy? Not getting what we deserve.--

What is God's mercy? Not receiving the wrath of God which we all deserve.--

God is a God of Great Mercy--

Psalms 36:5-7 Your mercy, Lord, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep... How precious is Your mercy, God! And the sons of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.--

Ephesians 2:4-7 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.--

1. The danger of denying our need for mercy.--

Luke 18:9 Now He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:--

Luke 18:10-11 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and began praying this in regard to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, crooked, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'--

Luke 18:13-14 But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to raise his eyes toward heaven, but was beating his chest, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other one; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."--

2. Ignoring the depth of the mercy of God.--

Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came up and said to Him, "Lord, how many times shall my brother sin against me and I still forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy-seven times."--

Matthew 18:23-24 “For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his slaves. And when he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.”--

Matthew 18:25-27 “But since he did not have the means to repay, his master commanded that he be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment be made. So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ And the master of that slave felt compassion, and he released him and forgave him the debt.”--

Matthew 18:28-30 But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe!’ So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ But he was unwilling, and went and threw him in prison until he would pay back what was owed.--

Matthew 18:31-33 So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their master all that had happened. Then summoning him, his master said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’--

Matthew 18:34-35 “And his master, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he would repay all that was owed him. My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”--

3. Resenting God’s mercy for others.--

Jonah 4:1 But it greatly displeased Jonah, and he became angry.--

John 4:2-3 Then he prayed to the Lord and said, “Please Lord, was this not what I said when I was still in my own country? Therefore in anticipation of this I fled to Tarshish, since I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in mercy, and One who relents of disaster. So now, Lord, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.”--

4. Thinking that God’s mercy is not available.--

Psalms 118:1-4 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His mercy is everlasting. Let Israel say, “His mercy is everlasting.” Oh let the house of Aaron say, “His mercy is everlasting.” Let those who fear the Lord say, “His mercy is everlasting.”--

Psalms 118:6 The Lord is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?--