

FOLLOW

Sunday 3 April 2016

Forgive those who wrong you: Mercy
Matt 18:21-35

One definition of 'Mercy' is, 'When it's in your power to condemn someone you choose to forgive.' How does the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (or Cathy's modern parable) shed further light on the meaning of 'Mercy' & 'Unmerciful'?

How is the Parable a reminder that if much is given then much is required? How does that speak to you personally?

Read the following Scripture verses: Luke 6:35-36; Eph 2:4-5; Ps 145:8 What do these verses say to you?

Share a time where you have shown mercy OR (more challenging) where you have failed to show mercy? How are you challenged?

What about the church? Unfortunately the church has not always shown mercy and indeed many of us at some time might have felt judged. Can you share an instance where you have been treated in this way? [You may wish to share this with your Group and (as an option) have someone pray for you – read Ps 103:8 and Lam 3:22.]

As we reflect on the Easter story, we are aware that mercy has already been offered through the death of our Lord Jesus – but we need to accept this gift. Share with others how personally releasing His grace is for you OR the challenge for you to totally accept his mercy and grace.

We are also challenged to (a) Give away mercy (look for opportunities to show mercy to others) and (b) Forgive ourselves. Discuss the challenge/opportunity that either/both present to you.

Reflect on a recent occurrence of where you have been wronged. Are you still hung up about this? (If so) How can your Group help you let go and allow the Lord to bring healing upon you? As a next step, might you even pray that God will bless those who have hurt you?

We are challenged to look at Jesus' ultimate sacrifice – how He shows his incredible love and mercy. Immerse yourself in his love and mercy for you. Might this be a special time when you can receive it and give it away freely?

