

Hope Chapel Series: “Relational Revival” part 3

Message Summary: Have you ever felt loved by someone because they showed you mercy? The reason people were convinced Jesus loved them was His continual demonstration of mercy. In fact, this was a repeated cry from the needy; “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus is calling His followers to return to a love that is an extension of God’s mercy. I’ve also been on the receiving end of a lack of mercy from others. I’m sure you have as well. When we experience an absence of mercy in our struggles – pain – failures – loneliness - no one feels loved. You feel condemned. Today we’re going to understand how to love people with mercy!

Relational Revival with Mercy

Mercy: A blessing that is an act of divine favor or compassion.

1. God Requires That His People Love Mercy

A. Mercy is a choice not just an emotion - Micah 6:8

B. By choosing mercy we receive mercy from God - Matthew 5:7

2. Showing Mercy Is More Important Than A Religious Activity

A. God values our mercy more than our service - Matthew 9:13

B. God values our mercy more than our money - Matthew 23:23

3. Showing Mercy Must Be Demonstrated

A. Loving with mercy compels us to meet needs - Matthew 25:34-36

B. Loving people with mercy is loving Jesus - Matthew 25:40

LifeGroup QUESTIONS:

BEGIN IT – (5 min) Time in praise & opening prayer.

OPEN IT- (10 min) What is your experience with mercy? Describe a time being on the receiving side. How did that make you feel? Now describe being on the judgment side. How did that make you feel?

EXPLORE IT- (60 min) Take time to review Sunday’s message outline and share notes taken by the group.

1. God wants His people to be known for mercy not judgment. Why then are so many believers in Jesus known for judgment rather than mercy?
2. What do you think about how God treats us as we treat others? (Matthew 7:1-2)
3. Why is showing mercy to others more important than our service for God or the money we give to God?
4. Mercy has to be more than a feeling. How we treat people will reflect our commitment to mercy. What does loving others with mercy look like?

APPLY IT- (15 min) What can you do this week to show love by being merciful and stop yourself from being judgmental?