

INTRO

Share a time when you've really blown it. We all have. It can be something light or from long ago.

READ

Mt 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

REFLECT & RESPOND

Mercy is a compassionate action by divine grace. The gospel or good news is the story of the mercy action Jesus did on our behalf. Besides drawing us to Christ, the Holy Spirit reveals to us the truth of God's Word, including who He is and who we are in Him. Billy Graham stated, "God's mercy and grace give me hope – for myself, and for our world." Indeed, having an understanding or revelation of God's mercy and grace produces hope, forgiveness and grace among other things in our lives.

- Hope

Understanding that God has a purpose and a plan for my life, I become a person with "a future and a hope" (Jer 29:11, ESV). I understand that God is for me and not against me. I have hope in this life and the next. My future is a heavenly and eternal one. My words can bring encouragement, hope and life to others.

- Forgiveness

Unforgiveness is an incredibly strong hang-up that has a powerful hold on many people. If you've been wronged you know the pain of this and the difficulty of letting it go. But Jesus is telling you today that you have received complete and unmeasurable forgiveness from God himself. You carry his presence and power to forgive. The forgiven forgive. Through Christ we also have the power to not pick up offenses.

- Grace

I should be moved by compassion into action when I see others hurting or in need. I can be fearlessly generous in giving to and blessing

others. I can honour authorities in my life even though they may not be perfect. I can withhold from talking about others shortcomings. This is gossip. I may even redirect these types of conversations should I come across them or they start to turn this way. I can show restraint and refrain from expressing in word or action what I feel people deserve.

Qu: Explain which of the above areas are most stretching or challenging to you.

Being merciful is defined as acting with compassion and being consistent with the revelation of God's covenant. To have compassion means to empathize with someone who is suffering and to feel compelled to reduce the suffering. It's a fuller, truer definition than feelings alone, and it's a very biblical understanding.

Qu: What people opportunities in or outside of the church you are reminded of or feel you should start doing?

RESPOND & PRAY

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

- Pray for a greater revelation of the grace and mercy you have received.
- Pray for a gentle and tender heart to take the grace and mercy of Jesus to others.
- Pray that Christ would be revealed as you operate in his mercy.
- Pray that you would be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and recognize the opportunities to share the reason for the hope that is within you.

(Feel free to say the names of people you're currently sharing your faith with)