

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

Unshakable Pt. 5 Matthew 5:7

Mercy is the first **Power gift!**

- What is mercy?

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There are more than **250** references to mercy in **The Bible**

- **O.T.** – Kindness to an inferior (*Beauty*)
- To lovingly touch with compassion
- **N.T.** – To show compassion by word or deed
- Human or Divine

Webster – 1960

- Refraining from punishing offenders **in your power**
- A disposition to forgive
- **Power** to forgive

American Heritage – 2001

- Compassionate treatment of those **under one's power**

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*“Blessed are **the merciful,**
For they **shall obtain mercy.**”*

Poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness and hunger & thirst for righteousness...

- all accrue to us, **for our benefit**
- They make us better, **more like Christ**

Mercy empowers us to give what **ONLY** Christ can give...

- To give what **Cancels** the justice of **death's judgement**

Mercy changes our standing with God

- And in His behalf

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Mercy values **another's benefit...**

- More highly than the loss they caused us

Mercy is **costly for the giver...**

- And valuable to the recipient
- Because they know **they don't deserve it**

Mercy is **Love** demonstrated

- **Romans 5:8**

Mercy must **reside in us** before we give it away

- And must be given away **to remain in us**

James 2:13, “For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. **Mercy triumphs over judgment.**”

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No one compounds interest like God!

- As His blessing accumulates... (**5:3-10**)
- We become more like Christ (**Rom. 8:29**)

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Mercy, like Love, is given first

- It doesn't wait for the one who needs it
- It stands at the ready...
- **Eager** for the other to receive its benefit (**Genesis 50:19-20**)

Mercy, when received by one who knows they deserve judgement...

- Changes **who they Are**

- Mercy given, has **life changing power**
- “Les Miserables”

Mercy received, not just as a benefit...

- But **as a deposit** in our character & nature...
- So we’re no longer **predisposed to prefer justice** for offenders
- Impacts (hopefully changes) those we give it to

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We are **most powerful** with Mercy when **we are the one wronged**

- We now have the **authority** to dispense Mercy
- And judge the offender **NOT guilty** in the court of our heart

We have no authority to impose mercy in behalf of someone else

- **Mercy cannot be imposed** (some may decline)
- God does not impose it
- It has **no value** when not freely given, and received

Mercy given freely...

- Frees both the **offender** & the **offended** (The merciful decline to receive the offense)
- **“Freely you have received. Freely give.”**
- **Everything** received from Jesus

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So far, we’ve been **receiving** from/of Christ

Now, **we’re going to start giving Him!**

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We live in a world eager to judge others guilty

Romans 12:2, “**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is **that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**”

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What is winning?

- Before Christ, it was having things our way

For Christ, **it is having things His Way!!**

Jesus IS The Rock! Unshakable!!

So is His Mercy!