

Questions, Quotes and Notes

October 23, 2022

Luke 6:39-45: Making the Case for Mercy

Pre-Sermon: Here are some questions to think about to get you ready to listen to the sermon on Sunday.

1. What are some reasons someone might give for not being merciful to someone else?
2. What kind of person do you struggle to be merciful toward?

Mid-Sermon:

We are continuing to look at Luke 6:27-45 where Jesus teaches us the way He wants us to respond to our enemies. The first week, we saw that we were to love our enemies and specifically we talked about love's actions. Last week, we talked about love's attitude. This week, **we are going to think about 6 different reasons why we should love our enemies like that.** But instead of having you simply focus on listening for an outline, I want to give you some important ideas to listen for. So, as you come to the service, bring a piece of paper and a pen, and see if you can answer these questions as I preach.

1. What are some reasons loving your enemy is such a hard command?
2. What does Jesus not mean when he says we must love our enemy? (Hint: What is the difference between a love of complacency and a love of benevolence?)
3. Can you give an illustration of what it means to not be merciful toward someone? How about an illustration of what it means to be merciful?
4. How do we know that obeying this command is important?
5. Jesus asks a strange question in verse 32. What is that strange question? Why does Jesus ask it like that? And what is the motivation for being merciful in verses 32-35?
6. How does thinking about something beautiful, God's mercy lead to thinking about something really challenging, us showing mercy? What's the connection?
7. Will a person who refuses to show mercy be shown mercy by God? Why or why not?
8. Not loving your enemy is sin. Why? What is so sinful about it?
9. What is the goal of discipleship and what does that have to do with being merciful?
10. What did we say is ironic about being a judgmental, merciless person?
11. What is one way you can evaluate whether or not you are a merciful person or not? And why is it so important you evaluate that?

Post Sermon:

- Important Cross References and Quotes:

1. Titus 3:3
2. James 2:11-13
3. "It is impossible for the man who loves himself over much, not to disdain his neighbors..."

- Application: We don't want to be hearers of the word only, but doers. Being a doer usually takes thinking, however. Spend some time thinking about how you can apply what you learned today.

1. If we sat down and listened to a recording of every conversation you had last week, would we go away saying you are a merciful person?
2. Who do you struggle most with being merciful toward?
3. Is there anyone you are bitter against? Anyone that you are unwilling to forgive? What do you think about that? What are you going to do about that?
4. What are some excuses you give yourself for not being merciful towards other people?
5. What would it look like for you to be a more generous hearted person?
6. Is our church community a merciful community? How can you help us grow in this area? What will you do this week to help?

- How Well Was I Listening Questions: Here are some questions you can ask your children after listening to the message.

1. What passage did we talk about today? What did Pastor Josh say about it? What part did you think was important?
2. Why is it good for you to love your enemies?
3. What are some ways God has been merciful to you?
4. Why should you listen to what Jesus says even if it is hard for you to understand or you think you know better?
5. What is the goal of being a disciple of Jesus?
6. If you are unmerciful, that's like having a what in your eye?
7. If you have a log in your eye and you see a speck in someone else's, what should you do?
8. What does your everyday speech reveal about what is going on in your heart?