

THE POWER OF LIVING MERCY

21 September 2025

Summary:

This message explores the central importance of mercy in Christianity, emphasizing that mercy is not just an aspect of kindness but the very core of the Christian faith. Bruce discusses how mercy is the love of God made tangible, the credibility of the gospel, and the most persuasive way to evangelize. The message calls believers to live out mercy in practical ways, seeing people as Jesus sees them, forgiving quickly, and helping others practically.

Key Points:

- Mercy is the love of God reaching into human need, healing what is broken, forgiving what is sinful, and lifting what is low.
- Christianity cannot exist without mercy; it's not optional for Christian life.
- Mercy makes the invisible God visible through our actions and words.
- Living mercy is the most effective way to proclaim the gospel and encounter Jesus.
- The church's credibility is seen in how it shows merciful and compassionate love.
- Mercy is evangelization in action and sends a message that God is present.
- Christians are called to see people as Jesus sees them, forgive quickly, and help practically.

Scripture Reference:

- Matthew 5:7 - "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."
- Ephesians 2:4-5 (paraphrased) - "But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, made us alive together with Christ."

Stories:

- Bruce shares a personal anecdote about making flight attendants smile and receiving extra chocolates as a result, illustrating how small acts of kindness can make a difference.
- A story is mentioned about a family who forgave a drunk driver who killed their children, demonstrating extraordinary mercy.
- Bruce recalls how his wife set up a morning tea area in a pharmacy for elderly people to socialize and combat loneliness.
- An anecdote about Bruce's mother wanting to change doctors, which led to a discussion about loneliness in older people and their need for connection.

THE POWER OF LIVING MERCY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(For Individual Reflection)

How can we make God's mercy more tangible and visible in our daily lives and interactions with others?

In what ways might our understanding of Christianity change if we truly embraced mercy as its core attribute?

How does the concept of 'impartation' challenge our approach to evangelization and discipleship?

What are some practical ways we can 'see people the way Jesus sees them' in our everyday encounters?

How might our church community be transformed if we focused more intentionally on living out and demonstrating mercy?

In what ways does the idea of mercy as 'the credibility of the gospel' challenge our traditional approaches to sharing our faith?

How can we balance the need for justice with the call to show mercy in difficult or contentious situations?

What role does personal prayer play in our ability to live out mercy, and how can we cultivate a deeper prayer life?

How might the concept of 'catching fire' through immersive experiences reshape our approach to Christian education and formation?

In what ways can we intentionally create opportunities for 'impartation' of faith and zeal within our church community and beyond?

THE POWER OF LIVING MERCY

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Opening Prayer:

Pray the IMPACTERS prayer together as a group. Ask God to open your hearts and minds to His message and to guide your discussion.

Key Takeaways:

1. Mercy is at the core of Christianity and the Gospel message.
2. Mercy makes the invisible God visible through our actions.
3. Living mercy gives credibility to our faith and proclamation of Jesus.
4. Mercy is evangelization in action.
5. Every Christian is called to live and demonstrate mercy.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Bruce define mercy in this message? How does this definition expand or challenge your previous understanding of mercy?
2. The message states: "Without mercy, there's no Christianity." Discuss what this means and why mercy is so central to our faith.
3. How have you experienced God's mercy in your own life? Share a specific example.
4. Bruce mentions that he overlooked the importance of mercy for decades. Why do you think it's easy to overlook or underestimate the role of mercy in our faith?
5. The message emphasizes that mercy is "proclamation without a microphone." What are some ways we can proclaim Jesus through acts of mercy in our daily lives?
6. Discuss the statement: "When people live mercy, people encounter Jesus." How have you seen this play out in your own experiences or observations?
7. What barriers or challenges do you face in showing mercy to others, especially those who may have hurt or disappointed you?
8. How can we cultivate a greater awareness of opportunities to show mercy in our everyday interactions?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, intentionally look for opportunities to show mercy to others. Keep a journal of these experiences and share them with the group next time.
2. Practice "seeing people the way Jesus sees them." Choose one person you struggle with and pray for God's perspective on them.
3. Identify one practical way you can show mercy to someone in need (e.g., writing an encouraging note, offering help, forgiving a past hurt). Commit to doing this action this week.
4. Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal areas where you need to receive His mercy and areas where you need to extend mercy to others.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His endless mercy towards us. Ask for His help in becoming more merciful in our daily lives and for opportunities to share His mercy with others.