

“GIVING MERCY”

THE MERCY CIRCLE:

- Mercy – The outward demonstration of compassion and pity one someone. It assumes need on the part of him who receives it, and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it. It signifies in general to feel sympathy with misery of others, especially sympathy in action. Active compassion. *Mercy is not earned or deserved!*
- God has shown us mercy. He has made a mercy investment in our lives.
 - He watches to see how we will use His mercy in our relationship with other people (Mt. 5:7;10:8b; Ja. 2:12-13).
 - If we are faithful to act with mercy towards others, God will be merciful towards us.
- Without mercy we are left with indifference or judgment.

UNPACKING MERCY:

- Forgiving others because God has forgiven you (Mt. 18:21-35; Lk. 23:34).
 - The only condition God places on His forgiveness (once received) is that we do the same towards others.
- Giving undeserved kindness and love (Lk. 6:32-36; 10:29-37).
 - Return good for evil.
 - Treat others how you would want to be treated.
- Mercy focuses on other’s needs not your own needs (Mt. 9:9-13)
 - True mercy is not given to gain other’s approval or love.
 - It is done out of gratefulness to God for His mercy.
 - Jesus touched people’s felt needs.
- Giving mercy to others sets you free from the world’s trap ... “What’s in it for me!?”
 - Being able to give freely is very freeing.

THE PITFALL OF ENABLEMENT:

- Both mercy and enablement desire to alleviate suffering and pain.
 - Enablement believes, “If I just change enough it will make the other person happy and they will love/like me.” It is self-focused at its core.
 - Mercy believes, “I will give what God enables me to give to bring His healing and comfort.” It is God and others focused at its core.

TOUCHING THE WORLD:

- The world is full of pain, suffering, injustice and heartache.
 - The need can be so overwhelming that we ignore it.
 - The world will ultimately get worse as we approach Christ’s return.
 - But God calls us to be a people of mercy.
- You can touch the world one life at a time.
 - Wherever you are, people are hurting.
 - People need someone who will show them God’s mercy.
 - Listen to their heartaches and disappointments.
 - Offer to pray for them.
 - Help them as the Holy Spirit directs you.
 - Share the Good News with them.
- Let God’s mercy break your heart for other people who need His love and forgiveness.

“Mercy gives what is undeserved”