The Mercy Journey Sermon Series Note-Taking Bulletins

**Part 1: Mercy in our Hearts**

Mercy: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shown towards someone whom it is within one’s power to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_. *[Oxford English Dictionary]*

“The percentage of practicing Christians who say they have offered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness (\_\_%) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the percentage who say they have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it (\_\_\_%). [Barna Group*, The Mercy Journey*]

Before we can ever \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mercy to others, we must first \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the depth of our own need for mercy, and the lavish way God extends \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mercy to us.

Three \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about God’s mercy seen in the Parable of the Prodigal Son: *[Luke 15:11–31]*

1. We are \_\_\_ lost and in \_\_\_\_\_ of mercy. *[Luke 15:13–16]*
2. We have all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mercy. *[Luke 15:17–20]*
3. We have a God who is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to give us mercy. *[Luke 15:20]*

Three \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God’s mercy:

1. Admit that you are \_\_\_\_\_. *[Luke 15:18]*
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ home. *[Luke 15:20]*
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and be merciful to \_\_\_\_\_\_. *[Luke 15:31–32]*

“Those who experience \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness have more willingness to forgive others. Among those who say they have received forgiveness, almost nine in 10 (\_\_%) say they have given it in return (compared to \_\_ percent of those who have not received it).” *[Barna Group]*

How is God calling me to respond to his mercy today?

“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” *[1 John 1:9]*

**Part 2: Mercy in our Homes**

“Just \_\_ percent of practicing Christians express deep compassion for someone who has personally wronged them, only slightly more than the percentage who feel this level of compassion toward a criminal (\_\_%). It’s possible that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of a personal offense poses a challenge to merciful expressions.” [Barna Group*, The Mercy Journey*]

The life of Joseph:

* Joseph’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sold him into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and faked his death *[Genesis 37]*
* Joseph was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ accused and thrown into \_\_\_\_\_\_. *[Genesis 39]*
* Joseph was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by people he had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *[Genesis 40]*
* Joseph led Egypt through a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *[Genesis 41]*
* Joseph’s \_\_\_\_\_\_ unknowingly attempted to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ food from him. *[Genesis 42–44]*

Four Steps on Joseph’s Path Toward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: *[Genesis 45]*

1. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *[Genesis 45:1–2]*
2. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the wrong. *[Genesis 45:3–4]*
3. Joseph recognized \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ purpose. *[Genesis 45:5–8]*
4. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *[Genesis 45:15]*

Who do I need to decide to forgive today? What’s one step I can take on that journey?

“But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.” *[Genesis 45:5–8]*

**Part 3: Mercy in our Churches**

“For the most part, the numbers within the Church \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ those in the broader population. For instance, practicing Christians don’t significantly \_\_\_\_\_ in reporting feelings of high compassion for those in distress (\_\_% vs. \_\_% of general population), the poor (\_\_% vs. \_\_%), someone who has wronged them (\_\_% vs. *%) or someone who has committed a crime (*% vs. \_%). Those numbers suggest that attending church and professing to follow Jesus do not necessarily correspond to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”[Barna Group, *The Mercy Journey*]

The broader theme of \_\_\_\_\_ and of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is this: those who bear the name of Christ should live out what they believe and \_\_\_\_ like him. It is not acceptable to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the forgiveness and mercy of Jesus without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the same forgiveness and mercy to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Four Characteristics of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Church: *[James 1:19–2:13]*

1. A mercy-filled church \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ well. *[James 1:19-20]*
2. A mercy-filled church \_\_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God. *[James 1:21-22]*
3. A mercy-filled church \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *[James 1:27]*
4. A mercy-filled church \_\_\_\_\_ out their faith through \_\_\_\_\_ and service. *[James 2:8,12-17]*

As Barna’s data reveals, at this moment in culture there is not a significant difference between the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_ population when it comes to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of compassion and mercy.

How can I change that statistic this today? Who can I serve this week? Who can I offer compassion and kindness to today?

“So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you. What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.” *[James 2:12–17]*

**Part 4: Mercy in our Communities**

“The purpose of the gospel is restoring creation, taking the things that are falling apart and bringing them back together. Meeting psychological, social and physical needs. You’re not saved by doing that, but you are saved to do that. Without the business of restoration, you’re just waiting for heaven, and that’s a very reductionistic understanding of the Christian life.” [Timothy Keller]

The parable of the \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is Jesus’ charge to his people to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to others. *[Luke 10:25–37]*

Who is my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *[Luke 10:30]*
2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *[Luke 10:30–32]*
3. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ likely. *[Luke 10:33]*

Four Ways the Samaritan Demonstrated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

1. He saw the man in need and had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *[Luke 10:33]*
2. He went to the man and \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of his needs. *[Luke 10:34]*
3. He counted the \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ it. *[Luke 10:35]*
4. He showed a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the man’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ healing. *[Luke 10:35]*

Jesus shares the Parable of the Good Samaritan not just so we’ll \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the Samaritan’s act of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but rather, so we ourselves will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it.

How do we continue our own mercy journey?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_: ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to opportunities to be an instrument of mercy.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: prioritize generosity and service to others as a way to honor God with your time and resources.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_: don’t stop at merely seeing a need, rather, stop and provide care.

“’Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?’ Jesus asked.

The man replied, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’

Then Jesus said, ‘Yes, now go and do the same.’” *[Luke 10:36–37]*