**UNDERSTANDING MERCY**

**“Jesus demonstrated God’s mercy”**

**Message Outline**

*“A NEW DAY will dawn on US because our God is loving and merciful.”* Luke 1:78 (GW)

**MERCY: undeserved forgiveness & unearned kindness**

WHEN DO I NEED GOD’S MERCY?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ACCEPT IT?

**1. ASHAMED**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A humiliated woman: John 8:2-11(NLT)

*“Early the next morning Jesus was back again at the Temple, a crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. As he was speaking, the teachers of the religious law and Pharisees brought a woman they had caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. ‘Teacher,’ they said to Jesus, ‘This woman was caught in the very act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do YOU say?’ They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and started writing in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, ‘All right stone her. But let those who have never sinned throw the first stones.’ Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. When the accusers heard this, they slipped away, one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to her, ‘Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?’ ‘No, Lord,’ she said. And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I. Go and sin no more.’”*

• **God’s mercy**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*“I was sent to… announce freedom to all captives and pardon all prisoners.”*

Isaiah 61:1 (MSG)

*(Jesus) “I have come to save the world and not to judge it.”* John 12:47 (LB)

*“O Lord, you are so good and kind, so ready to forgive, so full of mercy for all who ask your aid.”* Psalm 86:5 (LB)

*“Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin. So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will receive mercy and find the grace to help us in our time of need.”* Hebrews 4:15-16 (CEV)

**2. ANGRY**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A disappointed man: John 5:2-9 (NCV)

*“In Jerusalem, there is a pool with five covered porches, which is called Bethesda… This pool is near the Sheep Gate. Many sick people were lying on the porches beside the pool, waiting for a miracle. Some were blind, some were crippled, and some were paralyzed. [and they waited for the water to move. Sometimes an angel of the Lord came down to the pool and stirred up the water. After the angel did this, the first person to go into the pool was healed from any sickness he had]. A man was lying there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw the man and knew that he had been sick for such a long time, Jesus asked him ‘Do you want to be well?’ The sick man answered, ‘Sir, there is no one to help me get into the pool when the water starts moving. While I am coming to the water, somebody else always gets in before me!’ Then Jesus said, ‘Stand up. Pick up your mat and walk.’ And immediately the man was well; he picked up his mat and began to walk.”*

• **God’s mercy** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*"What is impossible with men is possible with God."* Luke 18:27 (NIV)

*“As you get to know Jesus better, he will give you, through his great power, everything you need for living a truly good life.”* 2 Peter 1:3a (LB)

**3. AFRAID**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A dying man: Luke 23:39-43 (NLT)

*“One of the criminals hanging beside him [Jesus] scoffed, ‘So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself - and us, too, while you’re at it!’ But the second criminal protested, ‘Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong!’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.’ And Jesus replied, ‘I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.’”*

• **God’s mercy** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Jesus) "I am the resurrection and the life! Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying!”* John 11:25 (NLT)

*“Anyone who asks for mercy from the Lord shall have it and shall be saved.”*

Acts 2:21 (LB)

*“The Lord God is waiting to show you how kind he is and to have mercy on you. The Lord always does what’s right and he blesses those who trust him!”*

Isaiah 30:18 (CEV)