

Weightier Matters: Mercy
Prepared by Steve Gregg
(*Matt.23:23/ Mic.6:8/ Matt.5:7*)

I. Definition:

Greek: *Eleos* (sometimes translated “compassion”—Matt.18:33/Mark 5:19/ Jude 22)

Noun= “is the outward manifestation of pity; it assumes need on the part of him who receives it”
—Vine

Verb= “sympathy manifested in act” —Vine

Jesus is often said to have been “moved with compassion”

II. God is merciful (Deut.4:31 / Psalm 103:8 / 2 Sam.24:14)

III. A matter of giving up rights (Matthew 5:38-42 / 1 Corinthians 6:7)

IV. Occasions for showing mercy:

A. Where there is misery:

- 1) Demon possession (Mark 5:19)
- 2) Sickness (Philippians 2:27)
- 3) Flames (Luke 16:24)
- 4) Poverty (Proverbs 14:21, 31 / Psalm 37:26 / Luke 6:35-36)
- 5) Misfortune, misery and need (Luke 10:36-37)

B. Where there is guilt:

Forgiving personal injuries (Luke 18:13 / Matt.18:33 / 1 Timothy 1:13, 16)

V. Discernment in showing mercy:

- A. Responsible forgiveness (Matt.18:15-17)
- B. Responsible alms (2 Thessalonians 3:10)

VI. The principle of reciprocity:

Matthew 5:7 / James 2:13
Luke 6:37-38 / Matthew 25:31-46
Matthew 6:12, 14-15 / Mark 11:25-26 / Matthew 18:21-35

VII. Mercy Vs. Sacrifice

Matthew 9:9-13; 12:1-7
Hosea 6:6
Micah 6:8