



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



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What does mercy sound like?

So, to start, let's look at the definition of mercy: Mercy is defined as the compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm. It is the act of forgiving someone or letting someone off the hook who you could otherwise hurt or punish.

Is that it? Is that all there is? Yes and no.

Yes, there are some things that happen in life that you can let go; no big deal, no harm done. AND No, there are other things that happen; deeper things; heart and soul things that take more emotional work, greater wisdom and maturity to understand the depth, value, and gift of true mercy.

When a person experiences true mercy, there is without a doubt a sense of gratitude, humility, and thankfulness. When two people respect each other and seek to live with dignity and to treat one another with dignity, there is a kindness of heart, there is compassion and forgiveness, there is recognition of the other

Mercy is more than a superficial "it's o.k.," "whatever, don't do it again." Rather, it rises from a depth of soul that recognizes the value of being heard and being seen. It is a compassion for and a forgiveness of another person's struggle and shortcoming because it recognizes their own.

The single greatest act of mercy is recorded in the Gospel of John , where we are reminded of just how merciful God is. (John 3:14-21) By the mercy of God we find our way out of the darkness and by offering mercy to others, we find our way to deeper, more meaningful relationships; we find our way through forgiveness, wholeness, community, and growth.

Could it be, on these days, that God is teaching us to offer up mercy to those around us, I wonder; those we disagree with, hold a grudge toward, or perhaps those who have hurt our feelings, or have different ideas but the same God as we do? God gave us the ultimate gift of compassion and forgiveness in the life of Jesus. Jesus gave us the model, the formula, the

strategy for how to live our lives. The question is, Do you understand mercy? Do we understand mercy?

Let us pray: God, have mercy on me; when I do not love others as you love them, have mercy. I know that you love all of your children, even when they don't love you or even deny your existence. Help me to focus more on you and less on what others think or say. Help me to live my life in a way that honors you and brings others to see and experience your amazing love and mercy. Amen.

“Now I can say I Live a Day” (John Wesley)

Pastor Pablo

March 17th , 2021

Online Devotionals

To grow in your relationship with God and others, it is important to have some spiritual disciplines in your life. Below are some helpful websites that will lead you to read scripture, pray, and focus on God.

[UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL](https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals) <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>

A daily devotional including scripture lesson and story.

[UPPER ROOM DAILY REFLECTIONS](https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/) <https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/>