

Have Mercy 4

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Servant Forgiven of Millions:

Matthew 18:32-33 – ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.' ³³ **Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'"**

When you have **received mercy** from God and stop living by what you think **you deserve**, you will be enabled to act with mercy toward others!

Learn to remove "I deserve" from your vocabulary.

- You worked hard—you deserve this.
- You don't deserve to be treated that way.

The fact is, I deserve Hell and separation from God for my sin!

Living by what you deserve is a two-edged sword.

You will not only be positioned to live in bitterness and disappointment for "not getting what you think you deserve," but will develop an expectation that when you fail and things are your fault that you will have to "get what you deserve."

When you are able to treat people **better than they deserve** you are delivered from them.

Living by the **Law of Mercy**, instead of the **Law of What I Deserve**, positions you to fulfill your purpose against all odds and opposition.

Jesus said to Paul at his conversion:

Acts 26:17 - I am **delivering you from the people**, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send you.

God wants to deliver us from people and their control over our lives!

Living by the **Law of Mercy** delivers you from people.

You can't serve and love people that you:

- Look to for approval
- Fear
- Hate
- Envy

Paul was willing to be separated from Christ for his love of the Jews and they were the very people persecuting him.

Romans 9:1-4 - O Israel, my people! O my Jewish brothers! How I long for you to come to Christ. My heart is heavy within me, and I grieve bitterly day and night because of you. Christ knows and the Holy Spirit knows that it is no mere pretense when I say that I would be willing to be forever damned and cursed and **cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers** if that would save you.

Yet these were the very people that persecuted Paul.

II Corinthians 11:24-25 – ²⁴ Five different times **the Jews gave me** thirty-nine lashes. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned.

Only weak people live this way?

- It takes the strength of the **mercy of God** received to live this way.
- It positions you in strength, because it positions you in God's power.
- Moses was the meekest man in his generation, but was also the most used man of God in his generation.
- Moses defeated the greatest military power on earth with a shepherd's staff.

Talk about Boundaries:

- Three types of people—wise, fool, evil
- God deals with people according to their choices and will not override their will, while His mercy is always available.
- We are to respect the choices people make and set boundaries accordingly.
- **God does:** He gives more grace or undeserved favor to the humble. He resists the proud.

Luke 6:35-36 – ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then **your reward will be great**, and you will be sons of the Most High, because **he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.** ³⁶ **Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**