

When HE Speaks

Mercy Triumphs Judgment

As a follower of Jesus, I have been given mercy instead of judgment. Because I have been shown mercy, I must extend that mercy to others. In every circumstance, we must ask for God's heart to love people like He does. God calls us to look past the externals, the things that our eyes see, and truly remember that we are all made in His image. We must allow room for the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us; to deal with any sin that is in our lives. We must ask for God's kingdom to come, and His will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

GET THINGS STARTED

How does or has mercy triumphed over judgment in your own life? Why, at times, is mercy so difficult to extend to others? Why is it so critical that we start with examining our own heart and allow the Lord to reveal any sin that we might be carrying with us?

GO DEEPER

1. From 1 Samuel 16:6-13, why should we look at a person's heart instead of their appearance? As followers of Jesus, how do we steer away from judging others based on upon what our physical eyes see and begin to listen to the voice of God concerning others around us?
2. In Luke 10:25-29, why do you think Jesus didn't answer the question on who is our neighbor but instead illustrated (through a parable) what it means to love our neighbor? How do we love our neighbors?
3. According to James 2:8-9, 13, mercy triumphs over judgment and prejudice. What does it look like extend the mercy we have received to our family, friends, co-workers, and the rest of the world?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. How likely are you to judge someone by external things? What does it look like to mature in this to where you look more at the heart than outward appearances?
2. Who do you need to extend mercy to right now, especially in light of our current situation with the death of George Floyd and the various responses to that situation? What does it look like to love our neighbor right now?

PRACTICE IT NOW

As a group, take some time to ask God if there is any judgment or partiality in your heart. Ask Him to increase His love in you so that it pushes out even a hint of discrimination. As a group, begin to pray for our city, our state and our country. Pray that we will see everyone the way that Jesus sees them. Pray for unity and that the church of Jesus Christ will be on the move during this time. Pray for opportunity and courage in your life to bring God's kingdom, to help eradicate discrimination and prejudice.