

IMITATE “THE FATHER OF TENDER MERCIES”

Note to the speaker:

Define mercy, using the Scriptures. Use Bible examples to show how Jehovah and Jesus demonstrated mercy. Finally, consider ways that we can imitate Jehovah’s mercy

WHAT IS MERCY? (5 min.)

Mercy is at times associated with the pardoning of error, but more often it refers to expressions of kind consideration toward those in need (Ps 103:3, 4; *w07* 9/15 22 ¶7; *w04* 11/1 12 ¶13-14; *cl* 225 ¶15)

Showing mercy requires two elements: (1) *feelings* of compassion or pity and (2) *actions* to provide needed relief

JEHOVAH IS THE SOURCE OF TENDER MERCIES (10 min.)

Compassion and mercy emanate from Jehovah and are part of his nature [**Read 2 Corinthians 1:3**] (*w08* 9/1 18, ftn.)

His tender feelings for those in need are like those of a mother for her newborn child (Isa 49:15)

His mercy is impartial (Lu 6:32-36)

He makes the sun rise and the rain fall “on both the wicked and the good” (Mt 5:45)

The Bible provides numerous examples of Jehovah’s mercy toward the Israelites as a group (Ps 78:38-41)

He was often “moved to pity” when they cried out for help, even though their own mistakes led to their situation (Jg 2:17, 18; 3:7-9, 12-15)

However, his mercy reached its limit with the ten tribes of the northern kingdom of Israel when they continued in their wayward course (Ho 1:6, ftn.; *w05* 11/15 18 ¶8-9)

When individuals repent and change their course, Jehovah is willing to forgive and extend mercy (Ex 34:6, 7)

This does not mean that his justice is tempered by his mercy; God’s justice and mercy are perfect, and they work together in complete harmony (*w07* 9/15 24 ¶14)

Jehovah showed mercy to David, who committed grievous sins but repented (Ps 32:1-5; 51:1-4)

Perhaps forgiveness was shown in part because of David’s mercy toward Saul (*w12* 11/15 23 ¶10)

JESUS PERFECTLY IMITATED HIS FATHER IN SHOWING MERCY (8 min.)

Jesus demonstrated why mercy is important and how to show it properly

We must show mercy to maintain a good relationship with Jehovah (Mt 9:13; *jd* 146-147 ¶13)

Our motives for extending mercy must be pure in order to please Jehovah (Mt 6:1-4)

Mercy requires positive action (Lu 10:29-37; *w07* 9/15 26 ¶1-2)

Like Jehovah, Jesus displayed mercy on every suitable occasion

He was not devoid of emotion when he performed miracles

Rather, he demonstrated tender feelings of compassion (Mt 20:30-34; Mr 1:40-42; *w08* 8/15 15 ¶15)

Jesus’ tender feelings for others prompted him “to teach them many things” (Mr 6:34)

CONTINUE TO BE MERCIFUL IN IMITATION OF JEHOVAH (7 min.)

Jehovah wants us to respond to his mercy by being merciful to others [**Read Luke 6:36**]

In what ways can we do so?

Be forgiving in imitation of Jehovah (Mt 18:23-35)

Comfort others in their trials with words of encouragement [**Read 2 Corinthians 1:4**] (*w08* 9/1 18 ¶6; *w98* 2/15 26 ¶5)

Do good to others, and share what you have with them (Heb 13:16; 1Jo 3:17, 18)

Help to fill the spiritual need of others by sharing the good news with them

When we show mercy to others, Jehovah will show mercy to us (Mt 5:7; Jas 2:13; *w07* 9/15 25 ¶19)

We will also have the satisfaction of knowing that we are imitating our merciful God (Ps 116:5)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]