



Teach Me **Your Way**, Lord

Part 2: Beholding your *Merciful Savior*

For this second part of your study on God’s mercy, you will need a journal or notebook, something to write with, and your Bible.

Over the last few weeks, you have taken time to consider Christ’s teaching in Luke 6:35-36. He commands us to love our enemies and do good to them. He commands us to keep on lending generously, trusting Him to make it right in the end. He commands us to be like our merciful Father. But these commands might seem impossible to us, especially when seeing them in light of a difficult person in our lives. What does it look like to actually demonstrate Christlike mercy to someone who is hard to love...or even to an enemy?

Colossians 1:15 tells us that Jesus Christ is “the image of the invisible God.” We cannot see God with our physical eyes, so Christ took on a human body so that we could see what Christ is like. Because Christ perfectly reflects the image of God, we would expect to see Him living out His very own command in His own interactions with people. And we do! We know God is merciful, because He has told us this truth about Himself in His Word. But what does that look like? Jesus shows us mercy in real life—we could call it “mercy with shoes on.”

You can do this study in two ways:

- 1) Read through the entire gospel of Luke, one chapter a day, recording what you learn about Jesus Christ.
- 2) Read through selected passages in Luke (provided below).

Whichever option you choose, take your time and work through each chapter/portion of Scripture slowly. Here are a few tips for a successful Bible study:

- Pray before and after you read the passage—asking God to help you understand and live out what you are reading.
- Look specifically for God’s mercy displayed in the life of Jesus: in His attitudes, words, and actions. How did Jesus repeatedly *love*, *do good*, and *lend* during His earthly ministry?
- Notice the types of people to whom Christ displayed mercy. What do you learn about Him from His interactions with a variety of people? Remember, every single person with whom Jesus interacted was His “enemy” (Rom. 5:10). He came to rescue “sinners” and the “ungodly” (a description which describes each one of us before salvation)—and to bring them into His own family.
- Daily, record your insights in a journal.
- Prayerfully make application to your life. Be specific. By God’s enabling grace, how do you need to become more like Christ in displaying His mercy in your attitudes, words, and actions? What action step can you take to enact your obedience?
- Share what you are learning with other believers. Humbly open yourself up for accountability.

Because of how generous the Lord has been to us, we can afford to be generous to others (Psalm 37:21-26). Not only has Christ fully paid our sin-debt, but He has also shared with us His inheritance (Romans 8:17). Because God did not spare His own Son from receiving the punishment we deserve, we

can be confident He will not withhold from us anything else we need (Romans 8:32). We have such riches in Christ, we don't need to fear for our future or hoard our resources. We can afford to be generous.

Like our Savior, we can image the God of mercy. By His grace, we can *love, do good, and lend*. This is what He has done for us. And our merciful Father assures us that our losses will not be *permanent* or *significant* compared to the great reward He has promised for those who extend His mercy to others (Luke 6:35-36).

Selected Passages from Luke:

- Luke 1:46-79**
(Note: "Mercy" is a key theme in Luke's gospel, even before the birth of Christ.)
- Luke 4:31-44**
- Luke 5:1-11**
- Luke 5:15; 6:17, 19**
- Luke 5:17-32**
- Luke 6:6-11**
- Luke 7:1-10**
- Luke 7:11-17**
- Luke 7:36-50**
- Luke 7:26-39**
- Luke 8:41-56**
- Luke 13:10-17**
- Luke 15:1-32**
- Luke 17:11-19**
- Luke 18:15-30**
- Luke 18:35-43**
- Luke 19:1-10**
- Luke 19:41-44**
- Luke 22:39-44**
- Luke 23:32-46**