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J E S U S

F O L L O W E R S

The Power of Mercy over Judgement



**Mercy – forbearance
shown to someone
subject to your power**

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

Luke 15:11-13

¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

Luke 15:14-16

**17 “But when he came to himself, he said,
‘How many of my father’s hired servants
have more than enough bread, but I perish
here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my
father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have
sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I
am no longer worthy to be called your son.
Treat me as one of your hired servants.””**

Luke 15:17-19

20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

Luke 15:20-21

22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:22-24

Three ways to grow in mercy:

**1. Realize that no one is perfect
(Luke 15:11-13)**

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Luke 15:11-13

Three ways to grow in mercy:

**2. Be prepared for rock bottom
(Luke 15:14-16)**

¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

Luke 15:14-16

**4 But God, being rich in mercy,
because of the great love with which
he loved us, ⁵ even when we were
dead in our trespasses, made us
alive together with Christ...**

Ephesians 2:4-5

Three ways to grow in mercy:

**3. Show mercy for the purpose of
life change**

(Luke 15:17-24)

**20 ...his father saw him and felt
compassion, and ran and embraced
him and kissed him.**

Luke 15:20

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Luke 15:24

**Mercy releases human understanding
in order to adopt the command to love
the people God places in our life.**

- Meg Bucher

**65% of millennials feel the church is
too hypocritical and judgmental**

- Barna Research

Three ways to grow in mercy:

- 1. Realize that no one is perfect**
- 2. Be prepared for rock bottom**
- 3. Show mercy for the purpose of life change**