

Melva's Corner

MERCY DEPOSITS

July 10, 2006

(Luke 6:37-38)

Central Truth: The Bible says that the Lord's mercies are new every morning; shouldn't our mercies be new and fresh each day?

Have you ever been waiting for someone who was supposed to meet you at a specific time and they were ... late?

Have you ever had to call someone who was supposed to meet you and they said, "Oh, I totally forgot about it"?

Have you ever had someone not follow through on something that they said they would do for you?

Have you ever done business with someone who left out a few important details?

These kinds of things happen to us all the time. I have these things happen to me and I put them in my "Mercy Account."

When I think about it, every time I give mercy to someone, I'm making a deposit in my "Mercy Account." The next time I don't do something perfect or proper, I'm more likely to receive mercy myself, especially if it's someone to whom I've previously shown mercy. You see, if the truth were known, we have all probably done the above mentioned irritating things to others. We should be merciful because of our misdeeds, but instead, when we are on the receiving side of other people's mistakes, we often find ourselves indignant. Shouldn't we say, "I forgive you, it's okay! You see, I need all the mercy I can get because I sometimes do the same thing. So I'll just share some of the mercy I need with you."

The Bible tells us to be merciful. **"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Execute true justice, Show mercy and compassion Everyone to his brother'" (Zechariah 7:9_NKJV).**

Paul reminds us about his own need for mercy! **"However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life" (I Timothy 1:16).**

The Bible says that the Lord's mercies are new every morning; shouldn't our mercies be new and fresh each day? **"This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:21-23).**

When it came time to move from Sinai toward the promised land, God's people followed wherever His cloud led them. But before long, their praise of God turned to a spirit of ingratitude. When they reached the southern edge of Canaan, a team of twelve men was sent on a forty-day mission to gather information about the land and its inhabitants. They returned with a mixed report. The land held bounty beyond their hopes but also powerful inhabitants. Ten of the twelve men saw certain defeat. Following their lead, the people cowered in fear, ready to kill Moses and return to Egypt. It was like slapping God in the face.

God was ready to destroy these self-centered, unfaithful people, but Moses intervened. He appealed to God on their behalf, and God was moved. Instead of destroying His people, He disciplined them severely. Because of their lack of trust in Him, they were banned from the Promised Land and confined to the desert for forty years, giving them lots of time to think about their rejection of God. Because of their sin, God kept them in the desert long enough to bury the generation who had lived in Egypt. Then He led their sons and daughters into the promised homeland.

The people possibly never knew the times Moses saved them from God's judgment. Moses' relationship with God, like Abraham's, allowed him to speak one-on-one with the Almighty and seek a change in His plans. Although God seldom, if ever, rescues His people from the consequences of their behavior, He never fails to forgive their guilt when they turn back to Him. He is the perfect image of a Father who disciplines, Forgives, and accepts His children with a tender, understanding heart and He is always available to those who listen to His call and His claim on their lives.

As Christians, Jesus commands us to show mercy and compassion on those who dislike or persecute us. In His teachings, Jesus remarks **"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you... Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."** (Luke 6:27-31, 35b-36)

So how is your "Mercy Account?" Overdrawn?

Have you made a lot of deposits by showing people mercy or is your account about empty.

Today, take time to pray for those who mistreat you, asking God to help you show mercy to them as He has shown mercy to us through His Son.

Scriptural References:

"Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:37-38)