



BREAKING THE ICE

If you could choose one thing to eat for the rest of your life what would it be?

What is one thing you have learned from following along with the Galatians reading plan so far?

MAIN CONTENT

This week, Pastor Kevin continued our Movement Series talking about mercy. We all need mercy. Mercy is getting what we don't deserve. Justice is getting what we do deserve. We tend to want justice for others but mercy for ourselves.

We have a just God so it makes sense that justice is hard wired within us. But God is also merciful because He knows, none of us are perfect. As followers of Jesus, we should exhibit mercy more than justice.

1. Do you tend to be more justice driven or mercy driven?

Most of us have an "inner lawyer" that lets us justify anything and everything if we let it. We can have an addiction to being right which fuels our justification of things. But when we give mercy we are shown mercy. (Matt 5:7). Mercy treats people better than they deserve. Just like God treats us better than we deserve.

2. Who is the most merciful person you know? How do they show mercy?

Read Galatians 2:16

3. What can you learn from this verse regarding justice?

God is merciful. Our relationship with Him is not based on getting justification for what we do wrong. When we trust in Jesus we have salvation only through Him. God's mercy doesn't look at our past and what we deserve but looks at us with love, compassion and mercy. He gives us a fresh start and loves us through our mistakes and sin. When we choose to follow Jesus, we become more like Him. We can't

expect people who don't know Jesus to act like Him.

When we judge others by their age, wealth status, race and lifestyle we are acting out of a justice mindset and not mercy. God had mercy on us when He sent Jesus to us. We need to have mercy on others if we want to be like Jesus.

4. What kind of standards do you put on other people? Do you feel these are fair? Do you feel these standards are based on justice or mercy?

When we receive God's mercy it changes our lives. Mercy transforms our heart to be more like Him. We can see mercy three ways. The first way is mercy remembers the poor. Loving the poor is essential to the move of Jesus. (Galatians 2:10).

5. How do you show mercy and remember the poor?

We can show mercy by serving others. A great time to do this is Saturday, September 25th for "Serve the City". Go [HERE](#) to sign up to serve and remember the poor.

The second way we can exemplify mercy is to give the bigger half. Don't always take the most but take the smaller portion. Give more than you receive. Giving is showing mercy to others.

6. What are some areas in your life where you can give the bigger half?

The last thing we can remember about mercy is it doesn't hold a grudge. Mercy enables us to forgive, even when we don't deserve it. If we are constantly looking for something to offend us, we will find it. We need to let go of the things that offend us and give it to God. When we let go of the offenses we are showing mercy just like God shows us mercy.

7. Where are you holding offenses in your life you need to let go of? How can you show mercy for those offenses?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you God for the mercy you have shown us in our lives. Help us remember to show mercy to others. Help us to remember the poor, to give the bigger half and to not hold grudges. Reveal to us the unforgiveness and grudges we currently have and help us make amends to show mercy to those we are holding offenses against. In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

- + Sign up to love your neighbor and serve those who need a helping hand this weekend at Serve the City. Go [HERE](#) to sign up.
- + Take some time to pray about the offenses you are holding in your life and ask God to help you to show mercy in your situation.
- + Continue reading along in the [Galatians](#) reading plan with us.