

Devotional**Mercy****October 18, 2020****Monday**

Read Luke 18:9–14

Realize you have the power to be merciful

A woman recently wrote into an advice column because she had written a letter of complaint about the workers in her apartment building having loud, profane, misogynistic conversations outside her window for hours each day as she worked from home. The building management fired the workers. Now her partner thinks she was wrong to have written the letter even though she didn't ask for them to be fired. My thought is to wonder how she could show mercy in that situation without being a doormat and putting up with that offensive talk for hours each day. What do you think she could have done that might have resolved the problem and been merciful?

You have the power and resources to extend mercy to others. How can you be compassionate to the store clerk, the restaurant server, the business owner, the school administrator, and the government official when you feel they have done something wrong or you are angry about how their institution is functioning? If your primary thought is just to keep your mouth shut that might be the start of wisdom, but this is more than just "letting things go." Showing mercy isn't merely the absence of hostile actions in this distrustful society, it is the demonstration of positive, concrete, compassion towards others. **How will you do that?** Think of some situations in the past couple of weeks that you could have handled differently or situations you know are coming up and jot down some ideas of how you could concretely show compassion to the people in those situations. Pray! Be creative! Use the little space below to start dreaming:

Tuesday

Read Proverbs 3:5–8

Communicate with mercy

How can you be merciful in how you communicate about others "out there" so that your community is built up into one of mercy and grace and not anger and distrust? How do you talk about politics, society, public figures, and culture with your family, friends, and church family? Do you talk about those areas in ways that are compassionate and extend mercy? Pledge to stop your ranting about "those people". How will you use your words and your social media to build up mercy and trust? Many of us have people we are more apt to rant at because they are safe to rant at about the ills of our world and they'll agree and rant back. How can you change how you speak while showing them mercy?

Wednesday

Read Luke 18:9-14

Pay special attention to v. 14 and read it again. Our society has been shaped by people who are really good at exalting themselves so that other people will exalt them... and give them money. If you can turn who you are (or appear to be) into a brand, people will want to be like you, will follow you on social media, and the money will flow in from the endorsements you get, the ad revenue your sites generate, and the fame you acquire. That way of business is not inherently evil, but when it leads to a lifestyle of constant self-exaltation you have to be on the lookout for your soul. You might not be trying to turn yourself into a brand on social media, but pay attention to who you are exalting. Be mindful of who truly deserves the glory you have to give today.

Thursday

Read James 2:1-13

Mercy triumphs over judgment. Let that remain in your mind, heart, and spirit today.

Friday

Please read and reflect upon 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 & Ephesians 2:1-10 in preparation for Sunday worship.