The Measure of Mercy

(From the sermon dated August 30, 2015)

The Study

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Luke 6:36 NIV

Mercy is a concept that may be difficult to describe. There is that idea that if we show mercy to someone we are letting them off the hook – offering a pardon for their offense. This demonstration of mercy seems to be more of an attitude, a change of heart. The only action required by this type of mercy is to walk away.

But, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks of "God's mercy" (Luke 6:36).

In **Lamentations 3:22-24** (NLT) Jeremiah says, "The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, 'The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in Him!'"

So, what do these mercies look like?

1. In Luke 6:27-31 Jesus gives a litany of services provided in acts of mercy. What are they?

Then Jesus said to let your enemies off the hook – so to speak. Read Luke
6:37-38 and discover how Jesus intends for us to "let others off the hook".

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- 3. Explain the illustration in verse 38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap."
- 4. Another blessing is mentioned in verse 35 when we let the love of God take over our actions toward our enemies. What do you think it is?
- 5. Think of some people in your life that have not been friendly to you. Beside each act of mercy below put that person's name where your action may be necessary. You may find that you can list that one name beside several of these acts.

There may be more people that you will want to place by any one of these acts of mercy. Then start practicing mercy with these people!

Name	Act of Mercy
	Do something good to them
	Bless them and their family
	Pray for them
	Be generous with them
	Do not retaliate against them
"Do for others as yo	u would want them do for you." Luke 6:31