

Family Matters

Volume 1: Issue 2

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Family matters is an newsletter designed with you in mind. Everyday we gather information about the real issues that people face. We want to address these issues head on with positive, encouraging information to equip you for "doing life."

We would appreciate your input or leave feedback. You can visit our web site at www.valleyvictorychurch.com and send us an e-mail We'd love to hear from you.

In this issue we deal with one aspect of forgiveness and mercy. Every day the opportunity for offense and hurt is real. What do we do to keep that hurt from paralyzing us? What should we do with all the stirred up emotions that come when we feel wronged or slighted? Well let's dive in and look for some answers.

Graciously forgiven,

Pastor Dave Beaulieu

Part 1 - Our Need for Mercy and Grace

Dr. James Dobson tells of seeing this sign outside a convent: Absolutely No Trespassing! Violators Will Be Prosecuted to the Fullest Extent of the Law. Signed - The Sisters of Mercy!

Thankfully God's not like that. I have been shown mercy, therefore I should extend mercy. When you are wronged by others don't you just want to get even or put them in their place? But does it really solve the problem or ease the pain?

In the movie "End of the Spear," a movie based on a true story, a violent tribe of warring people on the verge of killing themselves into extinction, murdered five missionaries attempting to reach them with the love of God. There is a scene at the end of the movie that depicts the conflict and turmoil in the soul when there is the choice between revenge and mercy. The young man who had lost his father to the barbarous acts of this violent tribe had seen the grace of God at work in these people. They had put down their warring ways and now lived in peace. The turmoil came when the young man discovered that his new found friend was in fact the very warrior that had killed his father. The anger soared and the wound was once again opened. Would anger win or would mercy flow? The young man made a monumental choice. He chose to forgive. Something happened when mercy flowed. Grace was given.

We definitely need God's help when we've been hurt or

abused or misrepresented. Vengeance provides no lasting peace. Only the grace given by God can provide that. Nowhere is this more evident than in the book of Hosea.

Here God creates a prototype of His mercy towards backslidden Israel by having the prophet Hosea marry a girl named Gomer.

After having 3 children with him, Gomer deserts the family to live with another man. But as bad as that is, it's when she's actually working as a prostitute that God tells Hosea, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is ... an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods" (Hos 3:1 NIV).

Although Gomer had shamed him publicly, Hosea welcomed her back. Instead of ostracizing or punishing her, he showed mercy and compassion.

Helmut Thielicke says: "When Jesus loved a guilt-laden person and helped him, he saw him as an erring child whom his Father loved and grieved over because he was doing wrong. He saw him as God originally designed him to be. Jesus was able to love men because he loved them right through the layers of mud." But showing mercy to those who have hurt us, can go against our grain. We want them punished and the scales of justice balanced. But "The God of all grace" (1 Peter 5:10) doesn't work that way. The Bible says, in Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you. But to do justly, **To love mercy**, And to walk humbly with your God?

"Mercy is ... what [He] loves most." And isn't it just as well for us that He does?

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Here are some verses to think about:

Matthew 5:7

Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2 Corinthians 6:1

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.