

ADVENT: GOD BRINGS MERCY

Luke 1.67-80

MERCY AND GRACE

Mercy: Not getting what you deserve

Grace: Getting what you don't deserve

What do we deserve? Paul makes clear in **Romans 1-3** that everyone, both the religious and unreligious, deserve a just punishment for falling short of the standard of God's holiness.

Romans 3.23, 6.23

IS A GOOD GOD OBLIGATED TO HAVE MERCY?

Some will ask, "how could God be righteous if He doesn't forgive? But we should be asking, "how could God be righteous if He *did* forgive?"

Event the angels are amazed that a good, holy, and righteous God offered forgiveness for sinful, rebellious enemies.

1 Peter 1.10-12 // Romans 5.10

**The question shouldn't be, "why doesn't God save everyone?"
The question should be, "why does God save ANYONE?"**

Daniel 9.18 // Titus 3.3-7

SO WHY DOES HE SHOW MERCY?

Ephesians 1.4, 5, 2.1-9 // 1 Peter 1.3-5

**Son of God became the Son of Man so that the
sinful sons of man could become adopted sons of God.**



NOTES:

Other Suggested Resources:

A sermon from Pastor Mark Driscoll on Christ taking our punishment and giving mercy.
www.marshall.com/media/christ-on-the-cross/iesus-took-our-wrath

Daily Devotionals:

Monday: Luke 1.67-80
Tuesday: Romans 3.23, 6.23
Wednesday: 1 Peter 1.10-12 // Romans 5.10
Thursday: Daniel 9.18 // Titus 3.3-7
Friday: Ephesians 1.4, 5, 2.1-9
Saturday: 1 Peter 1.3-5

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADVENT: THE ARRIVAL OF HOPE

Next Sunday the 22nd we will have our 1st ever **Kids Christmas performance**, followed by a message geared toward difficult times during the holidays. Then on the **24th** we will be having 2 family **Christmas Eve services, at 4 & 5:30pm** (kids will stay in sanctuary with the adults). Childcare will be provided for 5 years & under. It's a wonderful time to invite friends and family!

PLEASE RSVP for both the 22nd & 24th with how many folks you will have coming, by filling out a **Connection Card** so we can plan for seating. Thank You!

KIDS' PERFORMANCE PRACTICE TODAY!

Grab your kids (Preschool - 6th grade) and join us **TODAY** after service in the sanctuary for a short 30-45 minute practice in preparation for the Christmas performance next week!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING DEC 20TH

Bundle up with the kids and join us for **Christmas Caroling on Friday the 20th!** We will gather at the church at **6PM** to run through a few songs, grab some FREE coffee/cocoa and hit the streets! Please let us know if you're planning on joining us on your **Connection Card!**

If you'd like to get involved with any of our other outreach opportunities, ask for more information at the **Connection Booth** or email **Matt Null** at mnull1@yahoo.com

KIDS ON MISSION

Please log on to check out www.lifemissionchurch.com and click "Kids" at the top to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walk through of our curriculum.

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**Jesus + Nothing = Everything
Reading Plan**

Second Half of Chapter 11,
pages 180-192

SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

CONTACT US:

Jobey McGinty // Lead Pastor
jobey@lifemission.tv

Eric Price // Community and Connection
eric@lifemission.tv

Pete Christopher // Technical Arts
pete@lifemission.tv

Matt Piro // Worship Leader
matt@lifemission.tv

Audra Napolitano // Kids on Mission
audra@lifemission.tv

Kim Roberson // Administration
kim@lifemission.tv

Laurie Garcia // Administration
laurie@lifemission.tv

Life Mission Church

PO Box 908, San Marcos, CA 92079

www.LifeMissionChurch.com

[Facebook.com/LifeMissionChurch](https://www.facebook.com/LifeMissionChurch)

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Luke 1.71-75**. What stuck out to you the most or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday or from these verses? _____

On Sunday, Jobey said that the question we typically ask is, "why doesn't God save everyone?" But rather the question should be, "why does God save ANYONE?" Do you struggle with this thought theologically, with your relationship with God or with unsaved family and friends? If so, why or why not? _____

In your own words, define mercy and grace. What's the difference to you? _____

Read **Romans 6.23**. What do you and I really deserve for sinning against God? Who were you, and what was our position before God? Read **Romans 5:10**, **Ephesians 2:3**, **Titus 3:3** and **Colossians 1:21**. _____

Romans 5:10 tells us that we were once enemies of God, and **Romans 6:23** tells

us that we actually earned a harsh eternal punishment for our work sinning against God. As a Christian, what have you been given instead of this punishment, and why have you been given it? Read **2 Corinthians 5:21** and **Ephesians 1:4-8** and **Titus 3:4-7**. _____

Who are you now "In Christ"? Read **1 Peter 1:23**, **1 Corinthians 1:30**, **Romans 8:1**, **2 Corinthians 5:17**, **Galatians 6:15**, **Romans 3:24**, **Romans 8:29**, **1 Peter 2:4**, **Ephesians 1:11**, **1 John 3:2**, **Romans 8:15**. _____

How do you keep "grace in your face"? How do you remember who you are "In Christ" in your daily life? List practical ways of things you currently do and things you should do that will help remind you of this gospel of grace in your daily life.

If the saying, "right doctrine, equals right relationship, equals right living" is true, then how do you believe you can come to a deeper understanding of grace and mercy and your position "In Christ," what will be the result, and how does that work that way? _____

In your life, who are you, and who do you need to, extend God's grace and mercy to? _____