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Mercy Given
Pastor Taylor Klassen
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Romans 11:25-32 (NLT) - ²⁵ I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say, "The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem, and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness.

²⁷ And this is my covenant with them, that I will take away their sins."

²⁸ Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles. Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁹ For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn. ³⁰ Once, you Gentiles were rebels against God, but when the people of Israel rebelled against him, God was merciful to you instead. ³¹ Now they are the rebels, and God's mercy has come to you so that they, too, will share in God's mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so he could have mercy on everyone.

The Mercy we give should reflect the mercy we have received

Study Guide

This last Sunday we expanded on God's mercy. Mercy is best understood as not getting what we deserve often in reference to a deserved punishment. In the case of humanity, our bent nature to sin meant that the only thing we deserved was destruction and to be removed from God's creation. And yet, right from the Fall in Genesis 2, God chooses to allow humanity to exist—an act of mercy that foreshadows His desire to restore us. Jesus, then took on the punishment for sin, yet again another grand act of mercy.

Read Matthew 18:21-35. In your own life, have you had moments where someone has forgiven you for something you did wrong? Or maybe someone intervened when you needed help. These are all acts of mercy. But, as we see in the parable, such mercy was never intended to end with us.

How differently do you think you would live if you were constantly aware of God's mercy in your life? Likewise, how do you think an act of mercy can be used to help guide people to Jesus?