

Mercy That Speaks

John 5:19-20

- I. **Jesus brought a new and compassionate way of doing things. Yet much of what He said and modeled is found in the Old Testament (Jeremiah 22:15-16).**
 - A. Radical mercy for sinners (Matthew 9:9-13)
 - B. Jesus framed fasting and prayer in the context of true love for all people, not the old wineskin of earning God's approval through sacrifice and discipline (Matthew 9:14-17; Isaiah 58:1-7).
 1. No more quarreling and exploiting while religiously pursuing God (Isaiah 58:3-4)
 2. No humbling and fasting without also blessing the weak and oppressed (Isaiah 58:5-7)
 3. An amazing result—our voice is “heard on high” (Isaiah 58:4). MERCY SPEAKS!
- II. **Mercy that builds the bridges of God**
 - A. Jesus spoke a message that even Matthew, the tax collector, and his friends could hear—a meal together with genuine openness and friendship (Matthew 9:9-13).
 - B. There are deeds that many people recognize as good. God wants us to use these bridges of love and mercy to speak His message to the world (Matthew 5:13-16).
 - C. Bridges of love and mercy (Isaiah 58:5-10)
 1. Sharing your food with the hungry (vs. 7)
 2. Providing shelter for the poor wanderer (vs. 7)
 3. Providing clothing (vs. 7)
 4. No pointing the finger and malicious talk (vs. 9)
 5. Satisfying the needs of the oppressed (physical, mental, and spiritual) (vs. 10)
 - D. More bridges of love
 1. Going the extra mile to love the unlovely (Matthew 5:38-48)
 2. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons (Matthew 10:1-8; Romans 15:17-20).
- III. **The reward of releasing mercy to the world (Isaiah 58:7-12)**
 - A. “Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear.” And the Lord will protect you (Isaiah 58:8).
 - B. “Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and He will say: Here am I” (Isaiah 58:9). MERCY SPEAKS!
 - C. “And if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry...your light will rise in the darkness” (Isaiah 58:10).
 - D. “The Lord will guide you always;” (MERCY SPEAKS!) “He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail” (Isaiah 58:11).
 - E. This mercy will cause the people around you to call to you and say, “Repairer of broken walls, restorer of streets with dwellings” (Isaiah 58:12). MERCY SPEAKS!

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