

MERCY

Synonyms:

Benevolent, Charitable, Forgiving, Sympathetic, Kind, Compassionate

Defined: compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm

Do any of the above describe you?

What is the greatest mercy granted to you?

Antonym (anti-mercy):

Cruel, Relentless, Harsh, Strict, Rigid, Inflexible

Do any of the “anti-mercy” descriptions describe you at all (even a small amount)?

Examples of Mercy from Scripture:

Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

Parable of the Merciful Master (Matthew 18:21-35)

Tenderhearted man – key traits

- Gives undivided attention
- Listens to ideas with the intent to understand
- Responds with kindness
- Helps during tough times

Two extremes with mercy

- Show no mercy
- Show only mercy

Neither extreme is good.

We are imperfect examples of what God’s mercy really is

Getting from “not so merciful” to “merciful”

- Look at our family through God’s eyes
- Take the 1st step
- Ask for a tender heart to replace a hardened heart