

Finding Hope in God's Servant at Christmastime All Bow Down Because of God's Tender Mercy

"The difference between Uncle Sam and Jesus Christ is that Uncle Sam won't enlist you in his service unless you are healthy and Jesus won't enlist you unless you are sick. 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners' (Mark 2:17)." John Piper, *Desiring God*, p. 171

3 lessons about the mercy of God:

I. Some People Don't Believe They Need Mercy

Luke 18:11-12 - *The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: "God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get."*

Mark 2:17 - *It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*

II. Some People Don't Believe You Should Admit Your Need for Mercy to Others Even if You Have It

Luke 18:39 - *Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

III. God is Pleased with Those Who Cry Out for Mercy

A. In Salvation

1. The tax collector

Luke 18:13-14 - *But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me, the sinner!" I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.*

2. The blind man

Luke 18:38 - *And he called out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

Luke 18:39 - *Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

Luke 18:41-43 - *"What do you want Me to do for you?" And he said, "Lord, I want to regain my sight!" And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.*

Luke 1:46-50 - *And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; for behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name. And His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him."*

B. In our daily growth

Lamentations 3:22-23 - *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*