



MERCIFUL MISERY

Week 39 | February 24, 2025

It can be so easy to **grow complacent** in our sin. When you spend enough time outside of *the will of God* it can start to feel like the new normal, as if this were how things were supposed to be. This is one of the **most dangerous positions** we can find ourselves in, for when there is *no motivation* to grow, change, or seek help we will only drift further away from our Father.

God's **mercy**, His *tender-hearted compassion* at work in our lives, can take on many different forms. One of the **most common** but *unrecognized* ways that He shows us this merciful kindness is **through our misery**. Like the prodigal in his pig slop ([Luke 15:14-19](#)), God can and will *make us miserable* in our sin so the separation that has taken place will be **painfully obvious** to everyone involved. This kind of *wake-up call* is what we are in dire need of today in our families, churches, and communities. Let us pray then, **out of love**, for all those living *outside of the will of the Father* to be **mercifully miserable**:

1. Mentally ([Deuteronomy 28:28](#))

- a. **NOTE:** While our God is one of **peace, clarity, and wisdom** He will often use *contrasting forces* to get our attention. The presence of **anxiety, confusion, and foolishness** sow *seeds of misery* in the minds of those **far from the Father** in an attempt to *draw them back* to Him. While painful and uncomfortable, it truly is for **our good** since only in His *presence and protection* can true tranquility, transparency, and insight be found. ([Isaiah 44:25](#); [Deuteronomy 28:20](#))
 - i. **For Ex.** "Lord God, thank You for **Your mercies** which are *new each morning*, for covering us in Your tenderhearted compassion on a daily basis. Please grant to us **the gift** which comes in the form of a *miserable mind* when we drift, hide, or run from You. Take back the **peace, clarity, and wisdom** that You have given in days gone by if we should *wander from Your path*, sending instead the **anxious, confused, and foolish** thoughts that make clear our need for You."
 1. **REMEMBER:** *Mental misery* comes when we cease to think from the **mind of Christ**. ([1 Corinthians 2:16](#))

2. Physically ([Psalm 32:3](#); [1 Corinthians 11:30](#))

- a. **NOTE:** Father God cares about **our bodies**. As our *Great Physician* and *Jehovah-Rapha* He can and has performed amazing feats of healing among humanity for millennia. Likewise, though, because of **our stubbornness** He will often use our **physical misery** to *turn and return* us to Himself. Please remember, **the joy of closeness with God** outweighs any amount of **short-term pain**. ([1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#); [Psalm 6:1-2](#); [Hebrews 12:2](#))

- i. **For Ex.** “Father God, thank You for **loving** such a *stubborn* and *stiff-necked* people. Thank You for constantly directing and redirecting us along **Your path** to *abundant life* and *amazing grace*. Please, Father, pour out on us the **physical pain** of *bodily misery* in order to turn and return us to **your path** when we *stray*, doing whatever it takes to draw us **closer into Yourself**.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** He *breaks us* in order to **bless us**, for His true longing is to bring about our *complete restoration*. ([Job 5:18](#))

3. Spiritually ([1 Samuel 16:14](#))

- a. **NOTE:** When we **refuse to respond** in *repentance* to the mental or physical discipline of the Lord He will then turn to the use of **spiritual misery**. This *wreaks havoc* on our emotions and *cuts through* our strength of will, devastating our **discipline** and **drive**. *Only God* can and will be the source of spiritual security in our lives, seeking it from any **other source** will always lead to *death, disaster, and destruction*. ([Psalm 77:1-4](#); [2 Corinthians 7:10](#))
 - i. **For Ex.** “Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to **restore us** spiritually, for *repairing the connection* between creation and Creator and for allowing us to live in **right standing** with You. Please, God, *torment the spirits* of any who wander from Your presence and **make miserable** any who attempt to *distance themselves* from You through rebellion or disobedience. Make our **desperate need** and **true dependency** on You alone *obvious and apparent* through our **emotional** and **spiritual** distress, for nothing else will do but You.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** A *broken spirit* draws us **closer to God**. ([Psalm 34:18](#))

Questions for Reflection:

- Are the *attacks on your mind* from the **devil's scheme's** or God's discipline?
 - Examine your life for *known rebellion* and **hidden blindspots**. God's discipline is designed to teach while the Enemy's attacks are *meant to distract*.
- How long will you endure *unnecessary physical pain* before you ask God to **search your heart** for any sin in need of correction?
 - Silently suffering earns us *no treasure* when it is a fruit of our **own stupidity**.
- Do you feel *distant from God*, as though He were **a million miles away** and entirely silent?
 - In reality He's only *one heartfelt prayer* of **confession** and **repentance** away from smothering you in *comfort, peace, and joy* and He's **shouting** the same thing over and over, begging you to “*come home*” where you truly belong.