

I Am Most Like Jesus When...

Personal Bible Study

Week of March 5 - I choose Mercy, Grace and Forgiveness

Key thought: Jesus was the living embodiment of mercy, grace and forgiveness. In God's *mercy*, He chose not to give us what we deserve (as a result of our sin); instead, in an act of *grace*, Jesus was sent to Earth (we received a gift we didn't deserve). Jesus bore the cost of our offense, and we have been *forgiven*. To live and love like Him, we must also choose *mercy, grace and forgiveness*.

Directions: Read through the scripture of the day. If you have the Bible App on your mobile device, try reading the passage in more than one Bible version before you pray and consider the follow-up questions

Daily Readings and Follow-Up Questions:

Monday:

Read Matthew 26:47-53 and Matthew 27:3-5.

- To live in God's mercy, grace and forgiveness we must **choose to receive** mercy, grace and forgiveness when we are wrong.
- In his message on Sunday Jeremiah pointed out that when we do wrong (sin) we must seek mercy, grace and forgiveness from God and anyone we have treated poorly.

- Where did Judas break this cycle of mercy, grace and forgiveness?
- Have you taken any actions for which you need to seek mercy, grace and forgiveness?
 - If so, pray to God first. Confess your wrong action. Seek and receive His mercy, grace and forgiveness.
 - Go to anyone your actions may have harmed. Confess your wrongful action. Seek their mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Tuesday:

Read Luke 17:3-4 and Matthew 6:15

- To live in God's mercy, grace and forgiveness we must **choose to offer** mercy, grace and forgiveness when we are right.
 - Do you have pain in your life that has been caused by another person?
 - Pray to God for the means to forgive that person. Remember Jeremiah's notes on forgiveness from his message this week:
 - Forgiveness is for your benefit, not just theirs.
 - It is also for God and for the purpose of transformation.
 - Forgiveness is not forgetfulness.
 - God's Spirit in us gives us the strength to forgive.

Wednesday:

Read Matthew 18:21-35

- Read the passage again, slowly. Upon reading this passage a second time today, what part of it stands out to you?
 - What does this parable tell you about God?
 - What does it reveal about you?
 - What action does it inspire you to take today?

Thursday:

Read Luke 23:39-43 and Hebrews 4:14-16

- To live in God's mercy, grace and forgiveness we must **choose to accept** His mercy, grace and forgiveness.
 - What does the story of the two thieves tell us about God?
 - Where do you see yourself within this story?
 - How does the phrase, "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence," make you feel?

Friday:

Read Matthew 6:9-15

- What does this passage say to you about God's forgiveness?
- How can you go, and practice forgiveness today?