GOD'S MERCY — DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!

Lamentations 3:22-23 (AMP)
22 It is because of the Lord's mercy and loving-kindness that we are not consumed, because His [tender] compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; great and abundant is Your stability and faithfulness.

SUREFOOTED MINISTRIES

BIBLICAL TEACHING

GOD'S MERCY

Don't Wait Until It's Too Late!

Theme: Recognizing, receiving, and extending God's mercy.

Foundation Scripture: Lamentations 3:22 (NKJV)

"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not."

INTRODUCTION — WE ALL NEED GOD'S MERCY!

Consider this important truth:

Without God's mercy, where would we be?

We have all sinned. None of us can claim that we have lived a perfect life or earned God's acceptance through our own accomplishments.

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

This puts every one of us on the same level. We all need God's mercy!

Think about what Lamentations 3:22 tells us. God's mercies are the reason we are not consumed.

What a wonderful expression of God's compassion!

We should never become so familiar with God's mercy that we forget how desperately we need it.

Thank God for His mercy! Thank God for Jesus Christ and what He has done for us!

PART 1 — UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF MERCY

What does mercy mean?

Mercy is compassion and love expressed through action. It is not simply feeling sorry for someone. It involves responding to another person's misery, suffering, or need with compassion and help.

Mercy is an important part of God's character.

Consider these two descriptions:

1. Mercy is the aspect of God's love that moves Him to help those who are miserable.
2. Grace is the aspect of God's love that moves Him to forgive the guilty.

Both mercy and grace reveal God's goodness toward humanity.

However, we must recognize something important:

God does not expect us to receive His mercy and then refuse to extend mercy to others.

Matthew 5:7 (NKJV)

"Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy."

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

Teaching Point

If we understand how much mercy God has extended toward us, we should become more willing to extend mercy toward others.

Ask the class:

- Have you ever needed someone to show you mercy?
- Have you ever been too quick to judge someone?
- Are you extending the same kind of compassion that you desire to receive?

Remember: We cannot fully appreciate God's mercy while continually refusing to show mercy to others.

PART 2 — GOD IS RICH IN MERCY!

One of the greatest descriptions of God's character is found in Ephesians 2.

Ephesians 2:4–6 (NKJV)

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

Notice the expression:

GOD IS RICH IN MERCY!

God did not wait for humanity to become perfect before providing salvation through Jesus Christ.

We were spiritually dead in our trespasses and sins, but God, because of His great love, provided a way for us to become alive together with Christ.

Consider what this passage teaches:

1. God is rich in mercy.
2. God's mercy is connected to His great love.
3. God made us alive together with Christ.
4. Salvation is by grace.
5. We have been given a new position in Christ.

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

Teaching Illustration

Think about someone who is drowning.

They do not need someone standing on the shore merely feeling sorry for them. They need someone to reach out and help!

Mercy involves compassion that responds to a need.

God demonstrated His love toward us by providing Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Teaching Question:

Are we merely talking about God's mercy, or are we allowing His mercy to change the way we live and treat others?

PART 3 — JESUS DEMONSTRATED GOD'S MERCY!

Throughout the ministry of Jesus, we see people crying out for mercy.

They were not merely looking for someone to acknowledge their problems. They were looking for help.

Consider these examples.

A. Two Blind Men Asked Jesus for Mercy

Matthew 9:27–30

Two blind men followed Jesus, crying out:

"Son of David, have mercy on us!"

Jesus asked them whether they believed He was able to heal them.

They answered yes.

Jesus touched their eyes, and their eyes were opened.

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

Teaching Point:

They recognized their need, came to Jesus, and expressed their faith in Him.

B. A Father Asked Jesus for Mercy for His Son

Matthew 17:14–18

A father brought his suffering son to Jesus and pleaded:

"Lord, have mercy on my son."

Jesus responded by addressing the situation, rebuking the demon, and the child was healed.

Teaching Point:

This father was concerned about someone he loved.

We should also be willing to bring the needs of others before the Lord.

C. Blind Bartimaeus Asked Jesus for Mercy

Mark 10:46–52

Bartimaeus was sitting beside the road when he heard that Jesus was passing by.

He began crying out:

"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

People tried to silence him, but he cried out even louder.

Jesus stopped and called for him.

When Jesus asked what he wanted, Bartimaeus answered that he wanted to receive his sight.

Jesus told him that his faith had made him well.

Immediately, Bartimaeus received his sight and followed Jesus.

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

What Can We Learn?

1. Recognize your need.
2. Do not allow opposition to silence you.
3. Bring your need to Jesus.
4. Believe that He is able.
5. Respond to Him in faith.

Important: Mercy is not something we earn. We approach God in faith, trusting His character and goodness.

PART 4 — WE CAN APPROACH GOD'S THRONE OF GRACE!

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

What an invitation!

God does not tell us to run away from Him when we recognize our need.

He invites us to approach His throne of grace.

Notice three important things:

1. COME BOLDLY.
2. OBTAIN MERCY.
3. FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.

Think about the difference between approaching God with confidence in His goodness and approaching Him as though He is unwilling to help.

We are not approaching Him because we deserve His mercy.

We approach Him because of what He has provided through Jesus Christ.

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

Personal Application

When you experience difficulty, temptation, failure, or a time of need:

- Do not run away from God.
- Do not allow condemnation to keep you from seeking Him.
- Come to Him honestly.
- Receive His mercy.
- Find grace to help you move forward.

Remember: God's mercy should move us toward Him, not away from Him.

PART 5 — THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS: A WARNING ABOUT WAITING!

Now we come to an especially important portion of this teaching.

Jesus gave us a sobering account in Luke 16:19–31.

Read the entire passage.

The Two Men Had Very Different Lives

The rich man:

- He was clothed in purple and fine linen.
- He enjoyed abundance every day.
- He had material possessions and earthly comforts.

Lazarus:

- He was a beggar.
- He was full of sores.
- He was laid at the rich man's gate.
- He desired the crumbs from the rich man's table.

Their earthly circumstances were very different.

However, something happened that changed everything.

Both men died.

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

What Happened After Death?

Luke 16:22–23 tells us that Lazarus was carried by angels to Abraham's bosom, while the rich man found himself in torment in Hades.

Then something remarkable happened.

The rich man cried out:

Luke 16:24 (NKJV)

"Father Abraham, have mercy on me..."

Think about that!

During his lifetime, the rich man had experienced earthly abundance. Now, after death, he was asking for mercy.

He wanted relief, but the answer revealed that the situation could not be reversed.

A Great Gulf Was Fixed

Luke 16:26 (NKJV)

"And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us."

This is a sobering warning.

The rich man could not change his circumstances after death.

He could not go back and make different decisions.

He could not cross the great gulf.

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

What Did the Rich Man Want Next?

He remembered his five brothers.

He pleaded that Lazarus be sent to warn them so they would not come to the same place of torment.

But Abraham answered:

"They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them."

The rich man thought that someone rising from the dead would persuade them.

Abraham explained that if they would not listen to God's Word, neither would they be persuaded even if someone rose from the dead.

Important Lessons From This Account

1. Earthly possessions do not determine our eternal destination.
2. Physical comfort does not replace a relationship with God.
3. Death is a reality every person must face.
4. We must take God's Word seriously.
5. We must not postpone responding to God's invitation.
6. We should have a genuine concern for the eternal condition of others.

The rich man wanted his brothers warned, but he could no longer return to warn them himself.

What about the people we know today?

Are we sharing the truth of God's Word with them while we have the opportunity?

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

PART 6 — NOW IS THE TIME TO RECEIVE GOD'S MERCY!

This brings us to one of the most important Scriptures in this entire teaching.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NKJV)
"For He says: 'In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.' Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

Notice two important words:

- **NOW** — God's mercy is available to you right now.
- **TODAY** — Do not postpone your response to God.

This connects directly to **2 Corinthians 6:2 (NKJV):**

“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

NOW IS THE TIME!

Not tomorrow.

Not next month.

Not when life becomes more convenient.

NOW!

The invitation to receive salvation is available while we are alive.

The account of the rich man and Lazarus reminds us that death brings a finality that cannot be reversed by our own efforts.

We must not assume that we can wait until after death to respond to God.

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

Consider These Scriptures

Romans 3:23 — We have all sinned.

Romans 6:23 — The wages of sin is death, but God's gift is eternal life through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 — Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Acts 4:12 — Salvation is found in no one else.

Romans 10:9–10 — We are instructed to believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths.

A Personal Question

If you have not received Jesus Christ as your Savior, why are you waiting?

If you recognize that you need to repent, why postpone it?

If you know someone who needs Jesus, why not begin sharing the truth with them?

Do not assume you have unlimited time.

We cannot control how long we live, but we can respond to God's invitation today.

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

PART 7 — THOSE WHO RECEIVE MERCY SHOULD EXTEND MERCY!

We have spent considerable time considering God's mercy toward us.

Now we must consider our responsibility toward others.

James 2:13 (NKJV)

"For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

This is an important instruction for every believer.

We should not become people who are quick to condemn and slow to show compassion.

Consider the following:

- Do we show mercy when someone makes a mistake?
- Do we help people who are struggling?
- Do we demonstrate compassion toward those who are suffering?
- Do we encourage people to repent rather than simply condemn them?
- Do we help others discover the mercy God has provided through Jesus Christ?

Showing mercy does not mean approving of sin or ignoring God's Word.

It means responding with compassion while remaining faithful to God's truth.

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

Additional Scriptures About God's Mercy

Luke 1:48 — God's mercy extends from generation to generation.

Luke 1:57–58 — Elizabeth's neighbors recognized the great mercy God had shown her.

1 Peter 1:3–5 — According to His abundant mercy, God has given us a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9–10 — Those who once had not obtained mercy have now obtained mercy.

Psalm 25:6 — Remember God's tender mercies and loving-kindness.

Psalm 69:16 — David called upon the Lord according to His abundant tender mercy.

Psalm 100:5 — The Lord is good, and His mercy endures to all generations.

Matthew 5:7 — The merciful are blessed.

Final Teaching Point

God's mercy is not something we should keep to ourselves.

We should be living examples of His compassion, pointing people toward Jesus Christ.

We have received mercy. Now let us demonstrate mercy!

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

CONCLUSION — DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!

Let's bring everything together.

We have learned seven important truths:

1. **We all need God's mercy.**
   Romans 3:23; Lamentations 3:22.
2. **God is rich in mercy.**
   Ephesians 2:4–6.
3. **Jesus demonstrated God's mercy.**
   Matthew 9:27–30; Matthew 17:14–18; Mark 10:46–52.
4. **We can approach God's throne of grace.**
   Hebrews 4:16.
5. **The rich man and Lazarus provide a serious warning.**
   Luke 16:19–31.
6. **Now is the time to receive salvation.**
   2 Corinthians 6:2.
7. **Those who receive mercy should extend mercy.**
   Matthew 5:7; James 2:13.

THREE QUESTIONS TO TAKE HOME

QUESTION 1: Have I personally received God's mercy through Jesus Christ?

QUESTION 2: Am I postponing something God has already shown me through His Word?

QUESTION 3: Am I extending God's mercy to the people around me?

Do not merely study these Scriptures.

Believe them. Apply them. Allow God's Word to change the way you live.

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your great mercy and loving-kindness.

Thank You that Your compassions fail not and that Your mercy is available through Jesus Christ.

We recognize that we have all sinned and that we need Your mercy.

Thank You for providing salvation through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Help us never to take Your mercy for granted.

Give us a greater awareness of the importance of responding to Your Word today rather than postponing what needs to be done.

Help us recognize the seriousness of eternity and develop a genuine concern for those who have not received Jesus Christ.

Give us opportunities and boldness to share the Gospel with others.

Teach us to demonstrate mercy, compassion, and love without compromising Your truth.

May our lives become an example of Your goodness so that others will desire to know You.

Thank You for Your mercy, Your grace, and the living hope we have through Jesus Christ.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

FINAL REMINDER

GOD'S MERCY IS GREAT.

JESUS CHRIST IS OUR HOPE.

TODAY IS THE TIME TO RESPOND.

RECEIVE HIS MERCY. LIVE IN HIS TRUTH. EXTEND HIS MERCY TO OTHERS.

Surefooted Ministries — Helping believers become effective and produce lasting results.

Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.

A recommendation for teaching this material

Keep this in mind. **Luke 16:19–31 and 2 Corinthians 6:2** are the two major turning points in the teaching.

The rich man asked for mercy after death, but the passage describes a fixed separation. Paul, on the other hand, declares that NOW is the day of salvation.

That contrast gives this teaching its urgency.

One important distinction: The account of the rich man and Lazarus should not be used to teach that poverty automatically saves someone or that wealth automatically condemns someone. The central warning is the seriousness of eternity and the importance of responding to God's Word.

Click here. Main resource. RPG Prayer Focus (WPF #100) Delight in Mercy for the World

Click here. (Video) Whiter than snow! Start fresh, with a spotless slate!



Copyright © 2026 SurefootedMin.org. All Rights Reserved.