

Mercy, Part 4 | Celebration

I. Celebrate God's mercy by studying mercy in the Bible.

- James 1:21-25
- True believers recognize that God perfectly inspired His Word, and He has preserved it for us. It's everything we need for life and godliness, and it has the power to reveal us and change us.
- Therefore, all of the best ways to celebrate God are going to come back to the Bible. Whether it's learning about Him, talking about Him, singing about Him, or even praying to Him, the Bible should be at the core.
- Don't delude yourself by thinking that merely reading the Bible is good enough. Be changed by it because you look intently into it, see the awesomeness of God, see the wickedness of yourself, and discover how God wants to change you. And then go and do what you learned.

II. Celebrate God's mercy by being merciful.

- A true disciple of Christ cannot swim in the ocean of God's mercy and not come out soaked and dripping with that mercy.
- Obedience is worship. Therefore, when we obey God's command to be merciful, we're worshipping Him. And when we withhold that mercy, we're worshipping ourselves.

III. Celebrate God's mercy by observing the mercy holidays.

- Preparation, Celebration, Anticipation
 - Preparation is all about taking time to prepare ourselves, our disciples, and our spaces to undistractedly worship God when the holiday arrives.
 - Celebration is the day or days or week or weeks you put your worship plans into action and give God the preeminence that's due Him.
 - Anticipation helps us not stay stuck in the here and now. It focuses our mind on God's future work as well as future opportunities we will have to worship God. It builds excitement for the things God is going to do in this world and in our lives.
- **Creation Week** — When God created the cosmos, He didn't give mankind what they deserved. And let's be honest, a creation that immediately rebels against it's Creator doesn't deserve to be created in the first place.
- **Labor Day** — Even before sin entered the world, God gave mankind the gift of work. And Christians can use Labor Day to give God the glory for that work.
- **Grandparent's Day, Daughter's Day, and Son's Day** — It's God's mercy that doesn't give us what we deserve, and it's His grace that allows us to be born to parents and to give birth to children.
- **Day of Atonement** — The Day of Atonement observes the Fall of Man and celebrates the mercy of God in providing a substitute to take the consequences of our sin.
- **Halloween** — Halloween highlights the consequences of sin. Fear and death are two of the most powerful consequences we deserve, but God has a plan to remove them both.
- **Veteran's Day** — Veteran's Day beautifully illustrates what we learned during the Day of Atonement.
- **Thanksgiving** — What better way could we respond to the mercy of God than with eternal gratitude. How can a recipient of mercy not be humbled and thankful for the unmerited favor of their Creator King? So we close the Season of Mercy praising God for what He's done in the past and looking forward to the mercy He will show us in the future.