

Wisdom From Above —Full of Mercy

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BIG SANDY, Texas—There are many sections in the Bible that describe characteristics that disciples seek to inculcate into their lives. One such section is found in James 3:17.

James 3:17—“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

Today, we will discuss the subject of being full of mercy.

Greek word in James 3:17

Notice the major Greek words dealing with the subject of mercy.

- *Eleos* (No. 1656 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is the Greek noun in James 3:17 translated as “mercy.” It is used 27 times in the New Testament.
- *Eleo* (No. 1653 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is the Greek verb translated to both “give mercy” and to “receive mercy.” It is used 24 times in the New Testament.
- *Eleemon* (No. 1655 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is the Greek adjective translated as “merciful” in two verses. Those verses are Matthew 5:7 and Hebrews 2:17.

Matthew 5:7—“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”

Hebrews 2:17—“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

Many examples

Let’s notice a few of verses mentioning mercy.

Matthew 9:13—“But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Matthew 12:7—"But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.

Matthew 23:23—"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone."

Luke 10:36-37—" 'So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?' And he said, 'He who showed mercy on him.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.' "

Romans 11:31—"Even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy."

Romans 12:6-8—"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

2 Timothy 1:16-18—"The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me. The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day—and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus."

Hebrews 4:16— "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

James 2:13—"For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

Jude 21—"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."