

Series: Make a Difference – Part 2
Date: September 23, 2007

HAVING GOD'S HEART OF MERCY

In order to make a difference in the lives of individuals, or the lives of a community – it begins by having a heart of mercy.

Three steps toward having a heart of mercy...

1. _____ ABOUT MERCY!

“Many tax collectors and ‘sinners’ “ Matthew 9:10

Matthew 9:11b-13 *When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners?’” On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

Matthew 12:7 **“If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent.”**

2. _____ WHAT MERCY IS!

Matthew 12:9-14 *Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”*

*11 He said to them, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! **Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.**”*

13 Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. 14 But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

What is mercy?

Mercy is God's _____ and _____ toward those in need or in distress.

Luke 10:36-37 *“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, **“The one who had mercy on him.”** Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”*

“Mercy is _____ with _____ on it!”

Special Guest: Shauna Fleming- “A Million Thanks”.

3. _____ OUR MERCY!

Matthew 15:32 *“I have compassion for these people... I do not want to send them away hungry”*

Luke 6:36 *“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful”*

Mother Theresa ...

“We can do no great things; only _____ things with great _____.”