

Mercy Redemptive

Biblical

Romans 12:7-8

Mercy – *eleeo* (ἐλεέω, 1653), “to have mercy (*eleos*, “mercy”), to show kindness, by beneficence, or assistance,” is translated “have compassion” in Matt. 18:33 (κιν); Mark 5:19 and Jude 22¹

The Scripture exhorts those who have this gift of mercy to show it with “*cheerfulness*”. There is an important idea being put forth here.

Characteristics

Gets along with everybody easily
Rarely has enemies
Is admired and respected
Is a safe person for those who are wounded
Can make everyone feel safe sharing their hurts
Can be approached by complete strangers
Can take initiative toward wounded ones
Knows who is feeling rejected or wounded
Has a huge number of acquaintances and people who enjoy but only a few who are close friends
Shares everything with intimate friends
Craves intimacy of soul and physical touch
Desires hugs and physical contact
Tends to be slow to make transitions based on emotional processing
Does not like rapid change without time to process
Hears from God but has difficulty explaining the “why.”
Operates on subjective and intuitive feelings. Makes decisions based on his heart
Hates to confront
Wants to keep people from hurting and protect them from pain
Does not like to choose sides between two people
Does not want to say one is right and one is wrong
Prone to appear indecisive because he does not desire to hurt anybody

¹ Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In [Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words](#) (Vol. 2, p. 117). T. Nelson.



Having to choose between people's opinions can be paralyzing
Can become a people-pleaser and enabler
The immature mercy may do whatever is necessary to make people around happy with him
May attract abuse and exploitation because of kindness, niceness, and willingness to allow injustice to happen
Has a deep strain of anger, which appears rarely and usually in the context of loyalty to someone else
Tends to take up an offense for a third party
Is drawn to gift of prophet
Opposites attract: decisiveness of prophet balances the indecisiveness of mercy
Prophet needs the softening influence of mercy
Prone to stubbornness
May acknowledge that what person is doing is not God's will and yet not change
Can choose to be life-giving when he wants to, how he wants to, and where he wants to, but can stubbornly resist doing all the things that God has called him to do
Can easily enter into the presence of God. Has a predisposition to worship
Often has not resolved the fathering issues in his life
May see all pain as bad. May flee pain and keep others from the discipline of God when person intends to build maturity and wholeness through discipline
Loves Beauty
Stubborn in the nicest sort of way
The mercy must find fulfillment in God and impart that blessing to others
Mercy is able to engage spirit to Spirit with God
Able to pick out people who are troubled and see-through facades
Slow in making life transitions because it takes a while to disengage emotionally
Very intuitive when it comes to following God's lead
Huge number of acquaintances, many people they enjoy and who enjoy them, but there is just one or two that are close intimate friends

Major Weaknesses

Impurity
Desire for intimacy and physical touch may lead to impurity
Enabling
Wants to protect others from pain
Compromise. Willing to live with mixture of holy and unholy without calling people to do what is right
Non-confrontational. May tolerate abuse and exploitation because he is willing to allow injustice to continue
Can be indecisive, not wanting to step on toes
Drawn into spiritual warfare when another who they care for is being spiritually attacked
Many mercies, whether in leadership or not, have a victim spirit. They attract abuse and exploitation, and because of their kindness and their "niceness," they are willing to allow injustice to happen to them
Can be abused by leadership
They can be worked unreasonably at their jobs and they put up with it and tolerate it because they do not want to inflict any pain on the individual that they are serving



Biblical Examples-

Good Samaritan in Luke 10:29-37:

1. Mercy-showers have great compassion for the hurting (v. 33).
2. "He went to him" (v.34). Mercy-showers seem drawn to the broken
3. Mercy-showers participate in a practical way: they are ready to do what needs to be done and "get their hands dirty" if necessary – as when the Samaritan bandaged the victim's wounds and "took care of him" (v.34).
4. Mercy-showers are sensitive to people's practical needs: The Samaritan paid the victim's bill (v.35).

Ruth, Joseph (legal father of Jesus) Matt 1:16-24; 2:13; Luke 1:27; 2:4-51; 3:23; 4:22, Rachel - Gen 29-31, Rebekah - Gen 23:22; 24:29; 35:8; 49:31

Discernment

