



The Christian Solution
for Addictions:
Jesus!

"Ten Attitudes of Victorious Living" Lessons Developed by Pastor Rick McClung



ATTITUDE 5 - Mercy

Watch Video: <http://www.tmewcf.org/video.html>

Jesus said: "Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy." Matthew 5:7

I humbly ask God's forgiveness for my sinful past.
I am able to forgive those who have hurt me.

Mercy is the aspect of God's love that causes Him to help those in misery, just as grace is the aspect of His love that moves Him to forgive the guilty. Those who are in misery may be so either because of breaking God's law or because of circumstances beyond their control.

MERCY:

- Restraint to inflict harm under circumstances of provocation, when one has the power to inflict it; compassionate treatment of an offender or adversary; clemency.
- Compassionate treatment of the unfortunate and helpless; sometimes, favor, beneficence. Luke 10 - Good Samaritan.
- A blessing regarded as a demonstration of compassion or favor.
2 Corinthians 1:3 - The Father of mercies and the God of all comfort.

The Bible has much to say about MERCY -

- For his MERCIES are great (**2 Samuel 24:14**)
- God's is abundant in MERCY (**Psalm 86:5**)
- God's MERCY endures forever (**Psalm 106:1**)
- God's MERCY is great (**Psalm 108:4**)
- Through the Lord's MERCIES we are not consumed (**Lamentations 3:23**),
- They are new every morning (**Lamentations 3:23**)
- For He is gracious and MERCIFUL (**Joel 2:13**)
- His MERCY is on those that fear him (**Luke 1:50**)
- He is rich in MERCY (**Ephesians 2:4**)
- According to His MERCY He saved us (**Titus 3:5**).

John 12:34-37 - The people answered Him, "We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth forever: and how sayest thou, 'The Son of man must be lifted up?' Who is this Son of man?" ³⁵Then Jesus said unto them, "Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. ³⁶While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light." These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. ³⁷But though He had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on Him.

There were many at this time who believed in Christ, and the religious world was being affected and troubled by Christ. In particular the raising of Lazarus from the dead caused many problems. (Read verses 9-11 and 17-19.)

Vs. 34 ... Who is the Son of man? This they asked, not with a desire to be instructed, but to be insulting. We will keep our focus on verses 35-37.

1. **Vs. 35a -AN ALARMING THOUGHT.**

Then Jesus said unto them, "Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light."

All of us have experienced calling upon the Lord in the day of our trouble. Many times we can remember crying out in desperation for the Lord to do something on our behalf. Anything.

All of us can also remember that prior to those times when we cried out to God, we didn't even give Him a thought or acknowledge Him in any part of our lives. Had we done so, many of those circumstances may not have even occurred — but they did and because they did, we found ourselves thinking about God after a very long time of not doing so.

When Jesus says, "**Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light**", it should really cause us to consider the importance of what He is saying and what is at stake here.

The Jews at this time had the light with them; they had the bodily presence of Jesus, they heard His preaching and saw His miracles. We have the scriptures to us that is a light shining in a dark place. As in that day, so it is with our day; it would be good

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for us to consider the times when we were enlightened by "the light of God's word". We were reminded by God about God and also reminded of His invitation to call upon Him in our times of need. We can say with confidence that by the mercy of God this light was sent to us. How could we possibly have thought about God had God not initiated our opportunity for doing so? Time is short and opportunity may not be too long and no one knows what their "little while" is.

2. Vs. 35b - A CAUSE FOR ALARM.

... lest darkness come upon you (take hold of): for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

Not knowing the way they are walking in and the things they are walking towards might be a good way to describe this experience.

Romans 13:12 - The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Ephesians 5:11 - And have no fellowship (to become a partaker together with others) with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove (refute, correct) them.

It is a very foolish thing to think that we can be part of the darkness and the darkness not influence us. There will always be those that think they are strong enough to play the game only to find out they were too weak for the opponent.

Any way you look at it, the longer we are around a certain environment or thing the more apt we are to indulge in it. Set aside the instructions of the Bible, and we know little of the difference between good and evil.

While in the darkness we were many times going straight toward destruction and knew little or nothing of the danger of it. The light, on the other hand, illuminates the darkness and exposes it for what it is giving us the wisdom and knowledge that we need in order that we might resist it.

3. Vs. 36 - AN INSTRUCTION FOR THE PRESENT.

While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide Himself from them.

Colossians 2:6 - As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: NOW!

It is the duty of every one of us to believe in the Gospel light, to receive it as a divine light, to pledge to the truths it discovers (for it is a light to our eyes), and to follow its guidance (for it is a light to our feet).

Christ is the Light, and we must believe in Him as He is revealed to us through His word. He is the true light that will not deceive us — a sure light that will not misguide us. His light shows us the way to Him and then continues to direct us in His ways.

4. Vs. 37 - AN ASTOUNDING RESULT.

But though He had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on Him:

In spite of what they heard. In spite of what they saw.

How often does the mercy of God have to cry out to us before it captures our attention and keeps it? So many occasions God has orchestrated the circumstances to get our attention, only to get it and then lose it again. Verse 37 should be a reminder of the depravity of the human heart that literally sees the miracles of God and still refuses to believe Him.

We have all perhaps been guilty of this in the past, but by the grace of God and our determination let us not be guilty of it again. May we be forever grateful for God's mercy and not presume upon it, and may we extend it to others by being merciful as well.



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Love Your Enemies

Luke 6:27-36 — Jesus commanded:

"But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,
²⁸ bless those who curse you,
and pray for those who spitefully use you.

²⁹ To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other
also. And from him who takes away your cloak,
do not withhold your tunic either.

³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you.

And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back.

³¹ And just as you want men to do to you,
you also do to them likewise.

³² "But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to
you? For even sinners love those who love them.

³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit
is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive
back, what credit is that to you?

For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.

³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend,
hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great,
and you will be sons of the Most High.

For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

³⁶ Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

