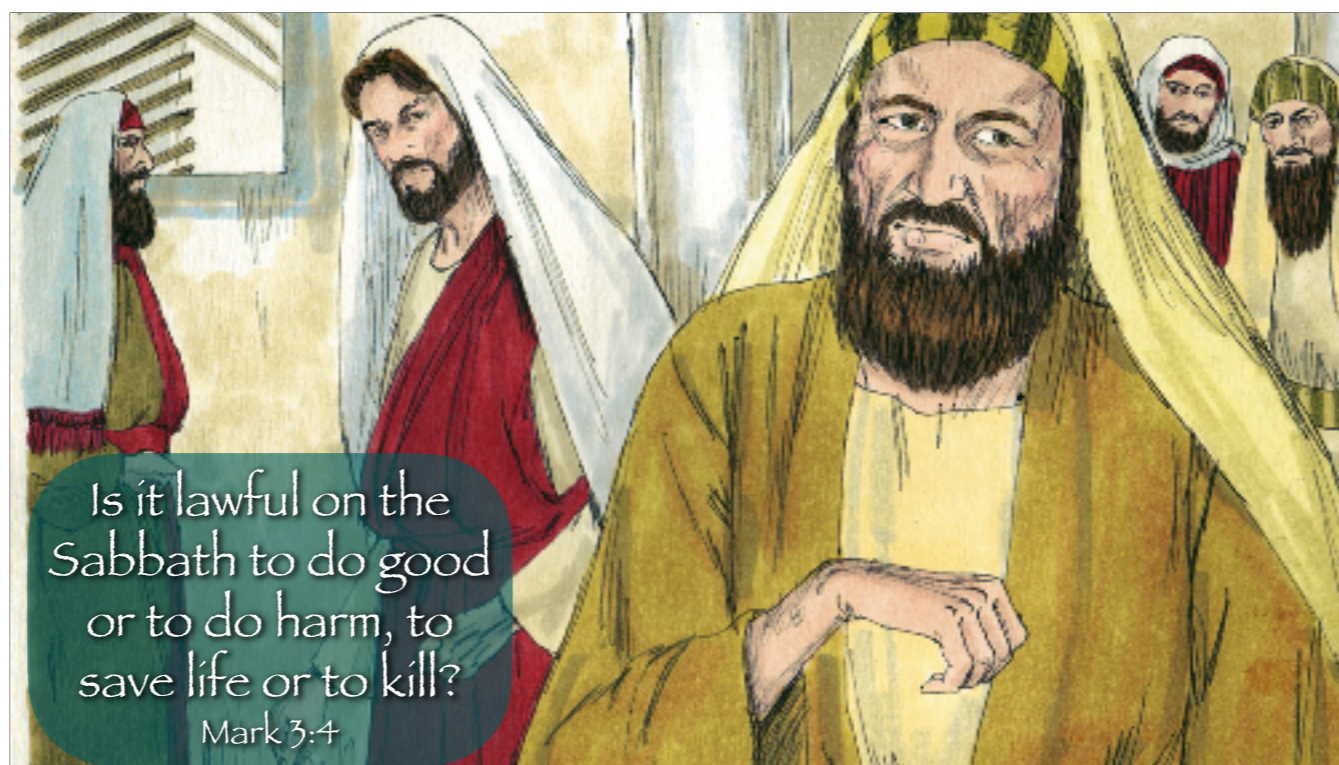
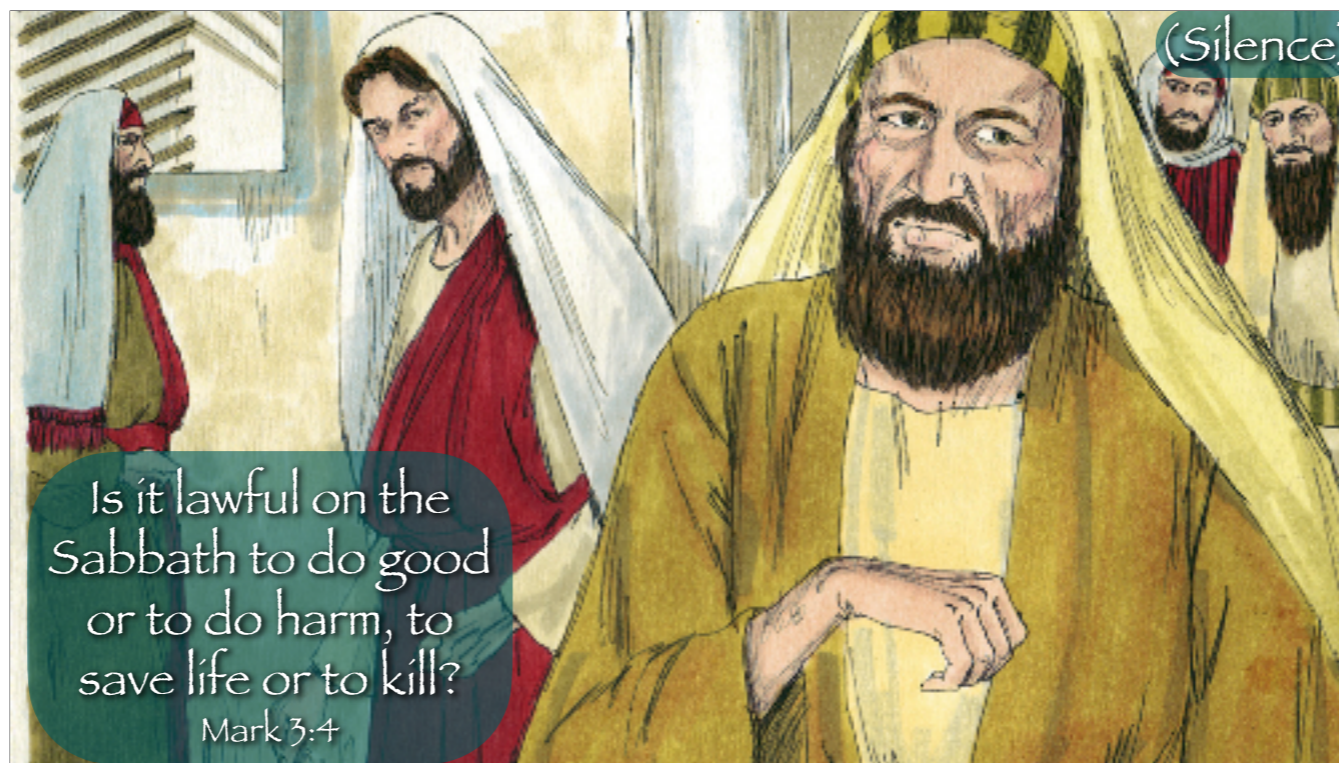


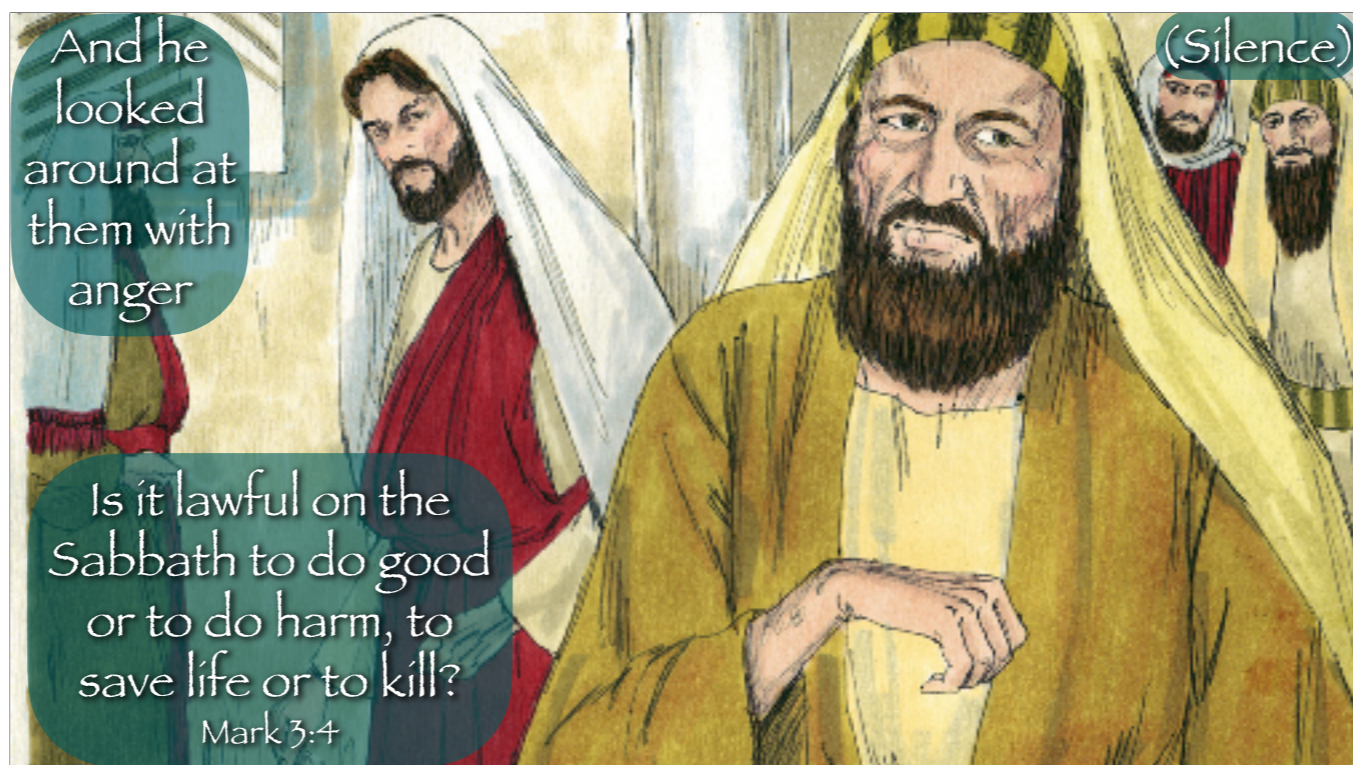
- Do you remember that time Jesus got angry?
 - (It may not be what you think it is ...)
- Mark 3:1-6 (ESV) 1 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. 2 And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. 3 And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here."
- Why are they at synagogue?
- Jesus has been doing miracles, teaching



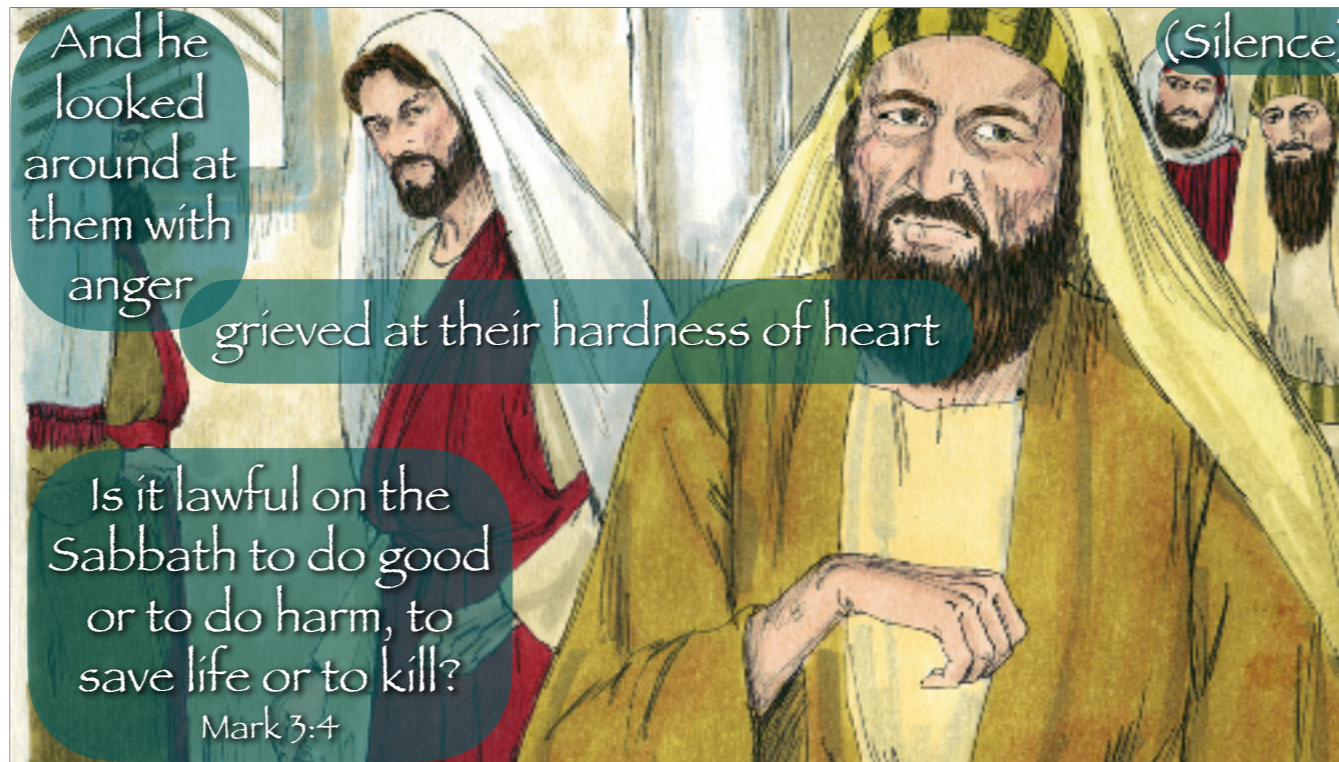
- 4 And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?”



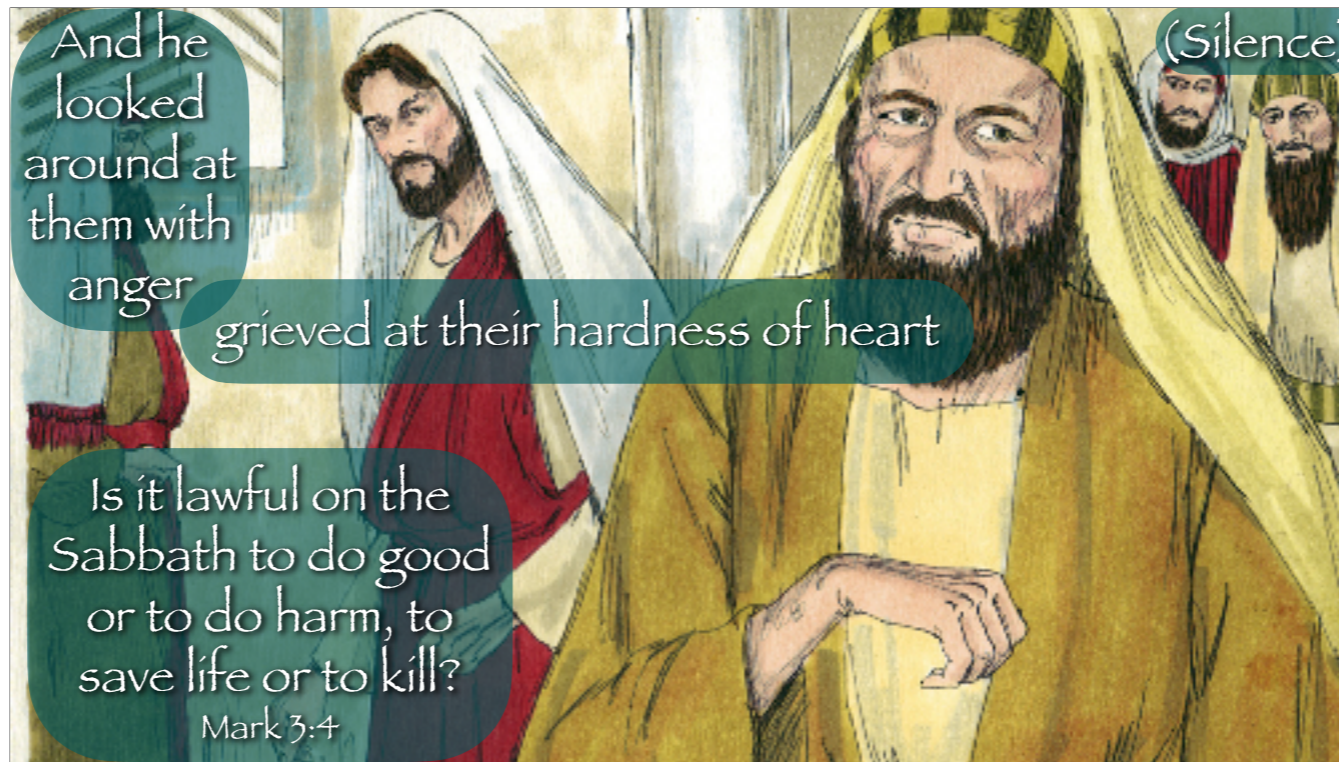
- But they were silent.



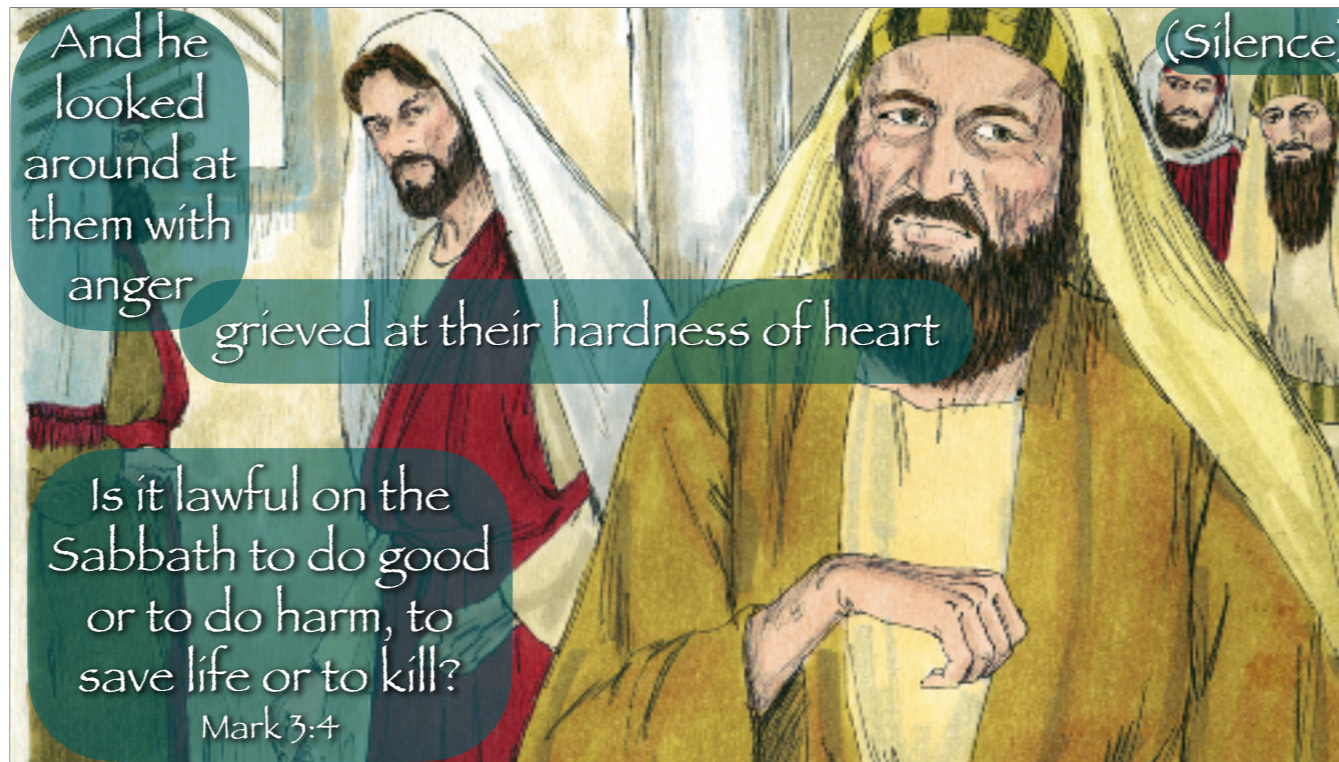
- 5 And he looked around at them with anger



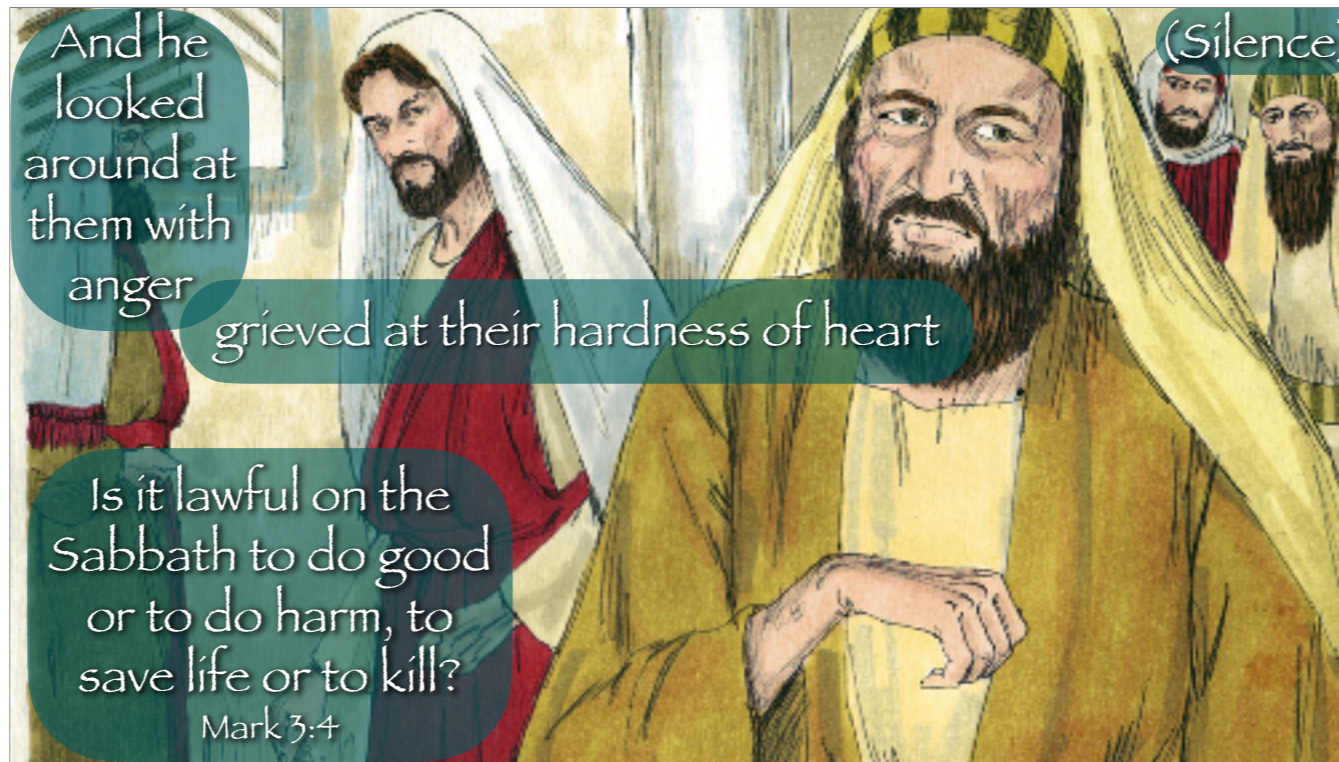
- grieved at their hardness of heart,
 - and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.”
 - He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.
- 6 The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.



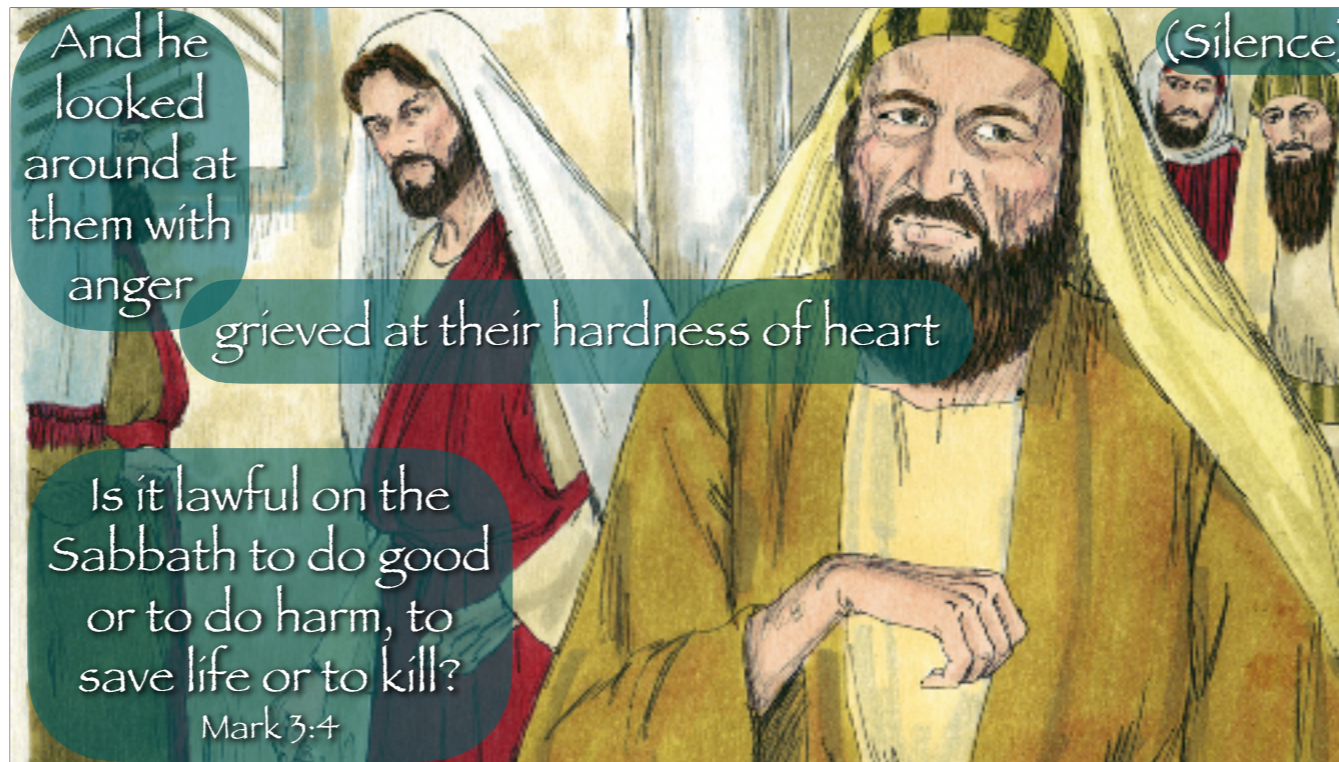
- We really seem to have a difficult time balancing law and love.
- The scriptures do emphasize the importance of obedience
 - To all of God's laws
 - And consequences of disobedience too
 - Often to be sure of our obedience we will make rules that "help" us to not be guilty of violating the laws of God.
 - These are not just whimsy ... we have very logical, reasonable arguments



- So did the Pharisees and other Jews
 - No work on the Sabbath
 - But what is work? What's prohibited and what's allowed?
 - Is it lawful to do good and save life?
 - This would have been an interesting debate ...
 - But Jesus wasn't inviting a debate



- Was it right or wrong for Jesus to heal this man?
 - He's done miracles often in the past
 - Moved by compassion
 - The Pharisees were not concerned about the man with the withered hand
 - But about the law, and Jesus
 - The Pharisees are hard hearted!



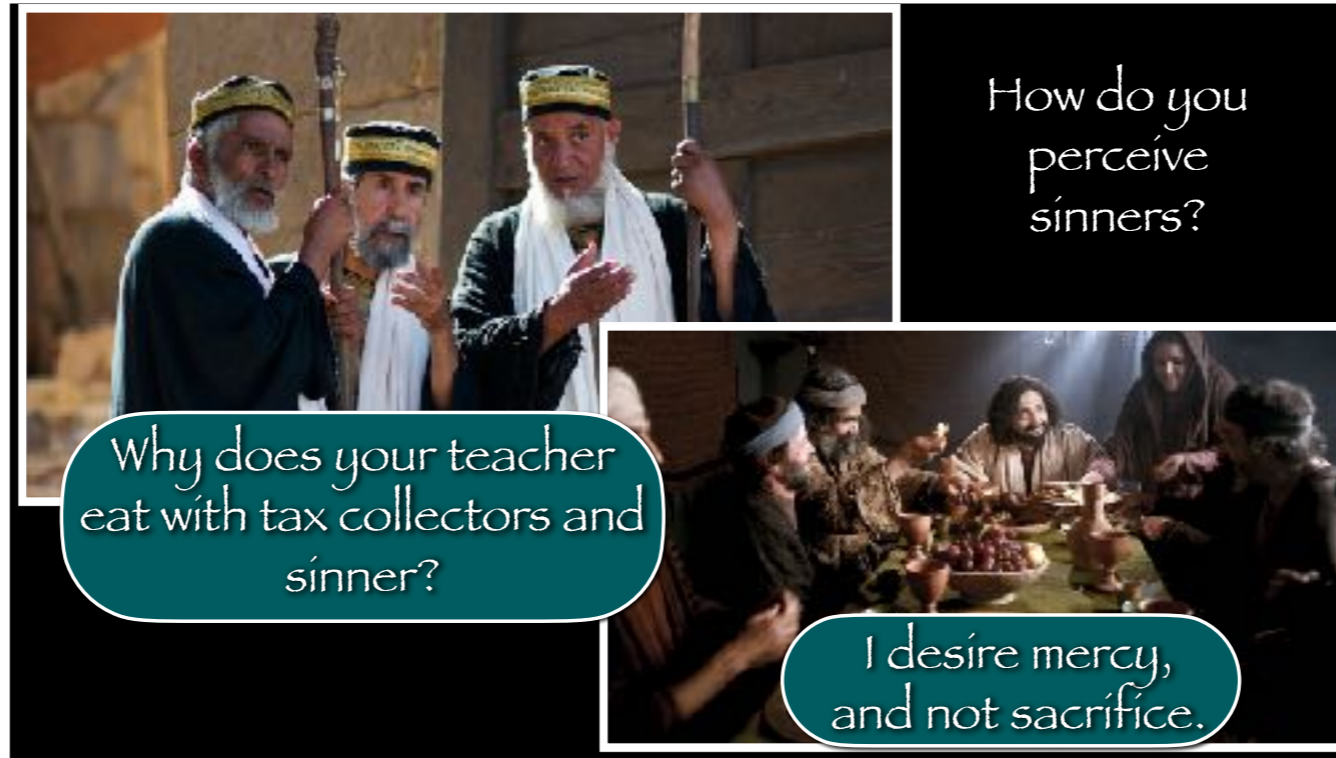
- Was Jesus right to be angry?
 - of course ...
 - The pharisees refused to understand that the law was not about the law
 - rather it is about people.
 - They had completely missed the point
- And so do we.



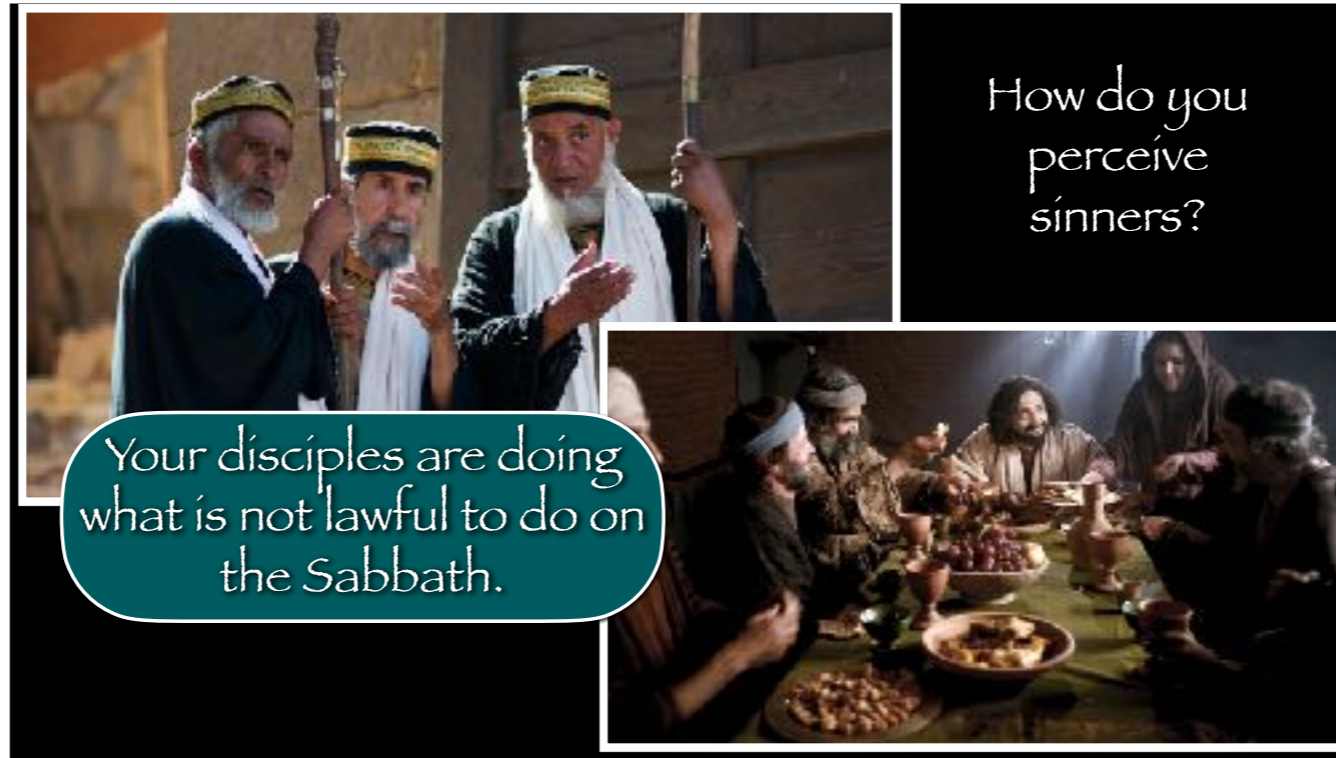
- How do you perceive sinners?



- Matthew 9:10-13 (ESV) 10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 12 But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”



- 12 But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”
- Why was Jesus with the sinners? MERCY



- Matthew 12:1-8 (ESV) 1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.”



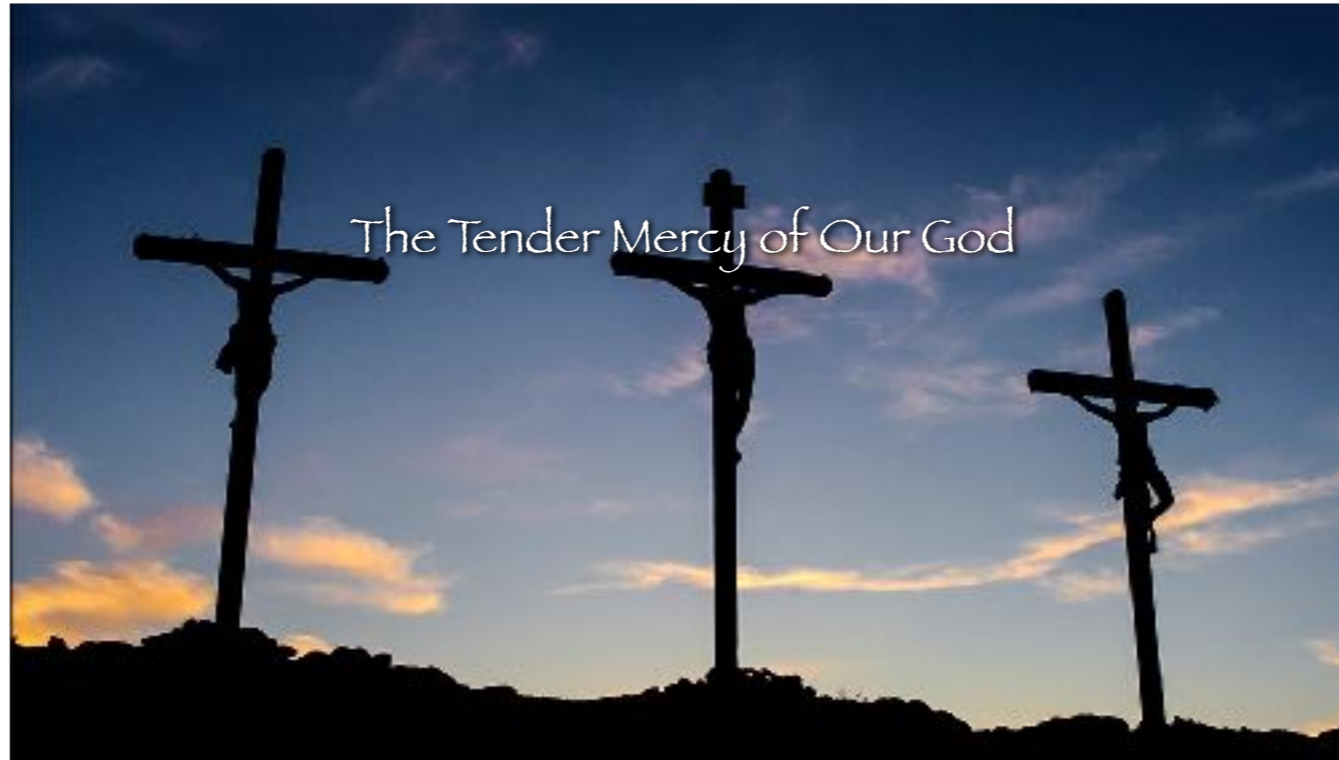
- 3 He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? 5 Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? 6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. 7 And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’



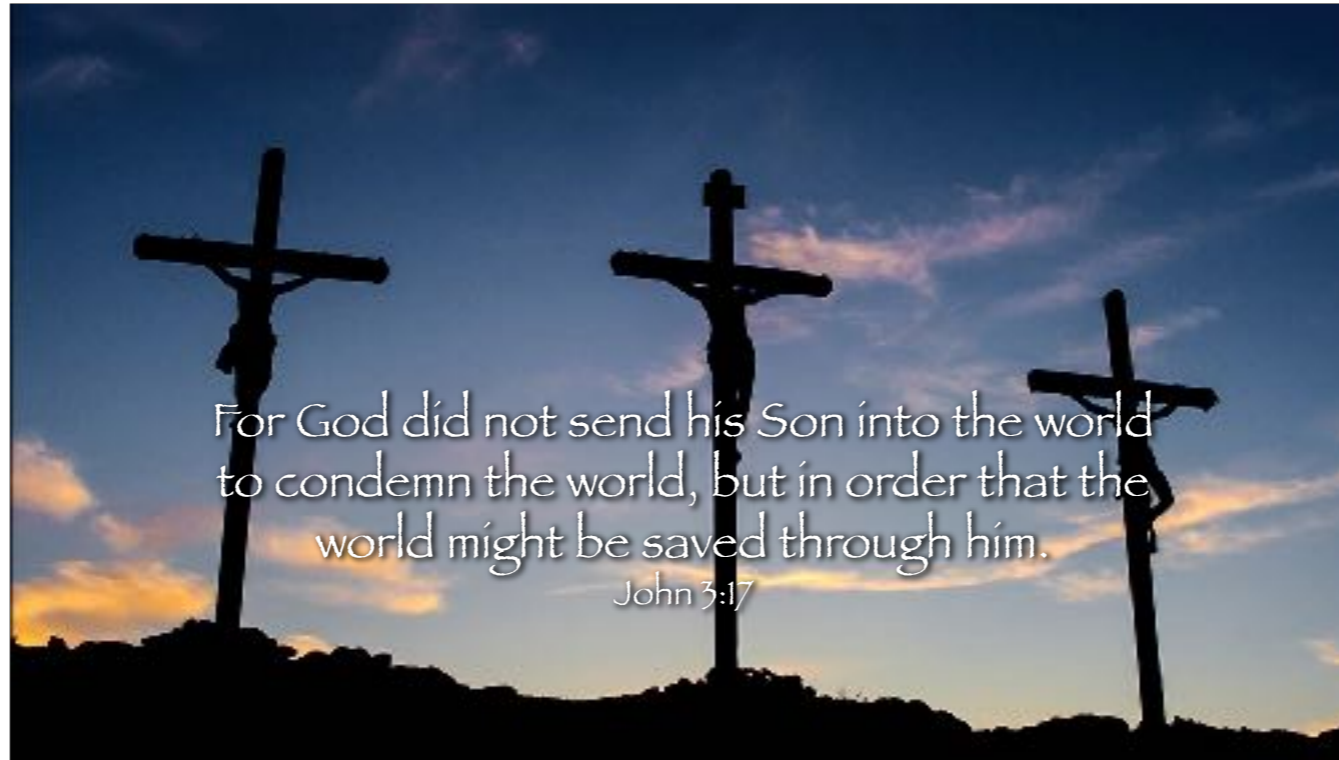
- you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”



- Mercy must have a place in our hearts
 - Because our God shows mercy
 - David ate the bread of the presence when he and his men were hungry (not priests, though)
 - Priests work on the Sabbath ... “profane” ... guiltless
 - It keeps us from condemning others
 - (It’s not our job anyway ... we’re just good at it)
- How do you perceive sinners?
 - Without excusing sin ... can you show them mercy?
 - Without condemning them ... can you help them?

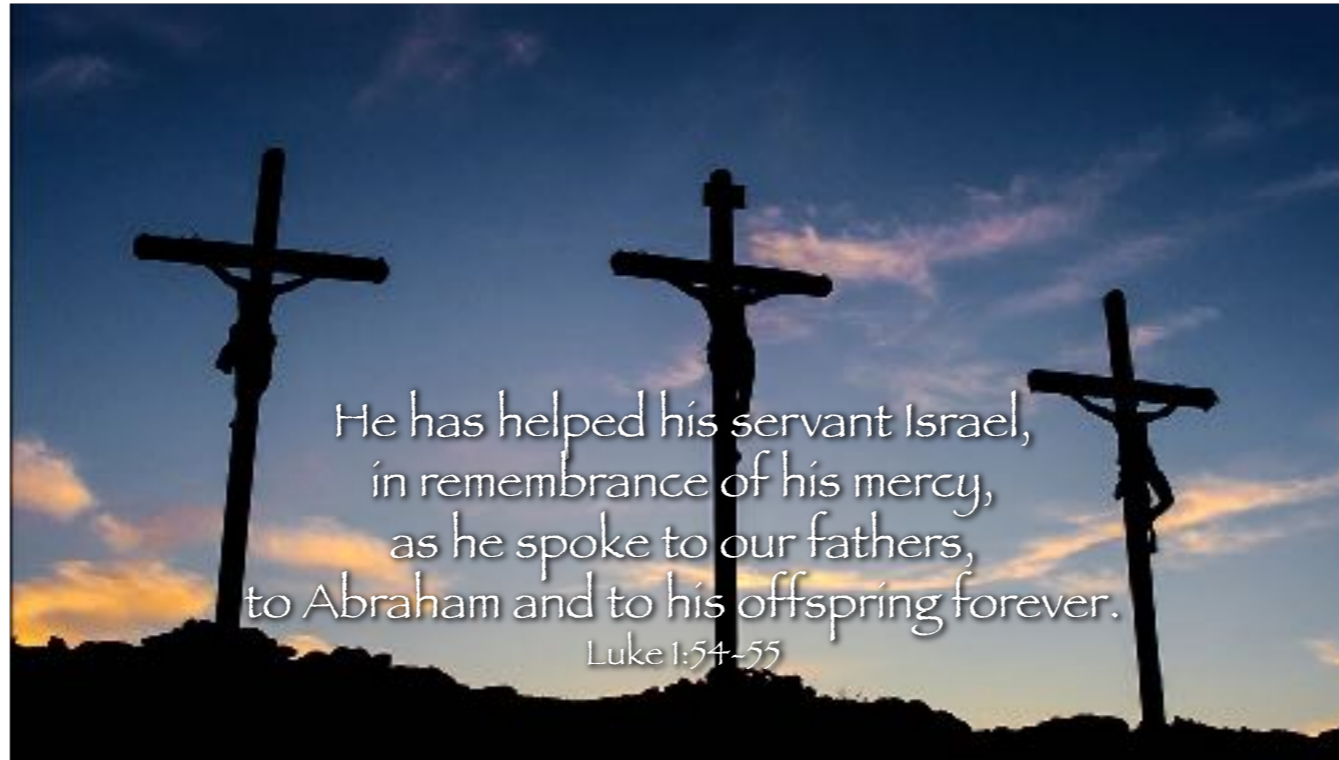


- The Tender Mercy of our God
- The very reason for Jesus coming was to show mercy.



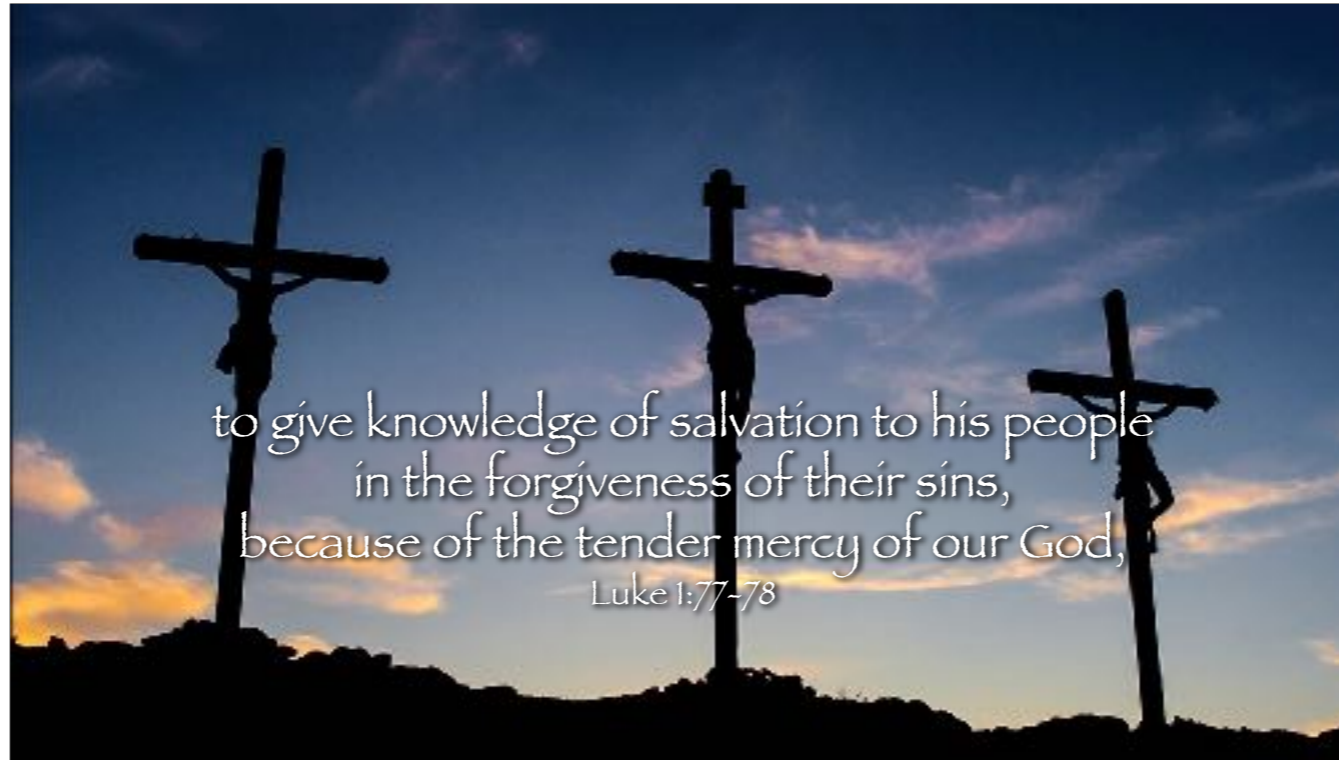
- John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

•



He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.
Luke 1:54-55

- Mary's Praise with Elizabeth
- Luke 1:54-55 (ESV) 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

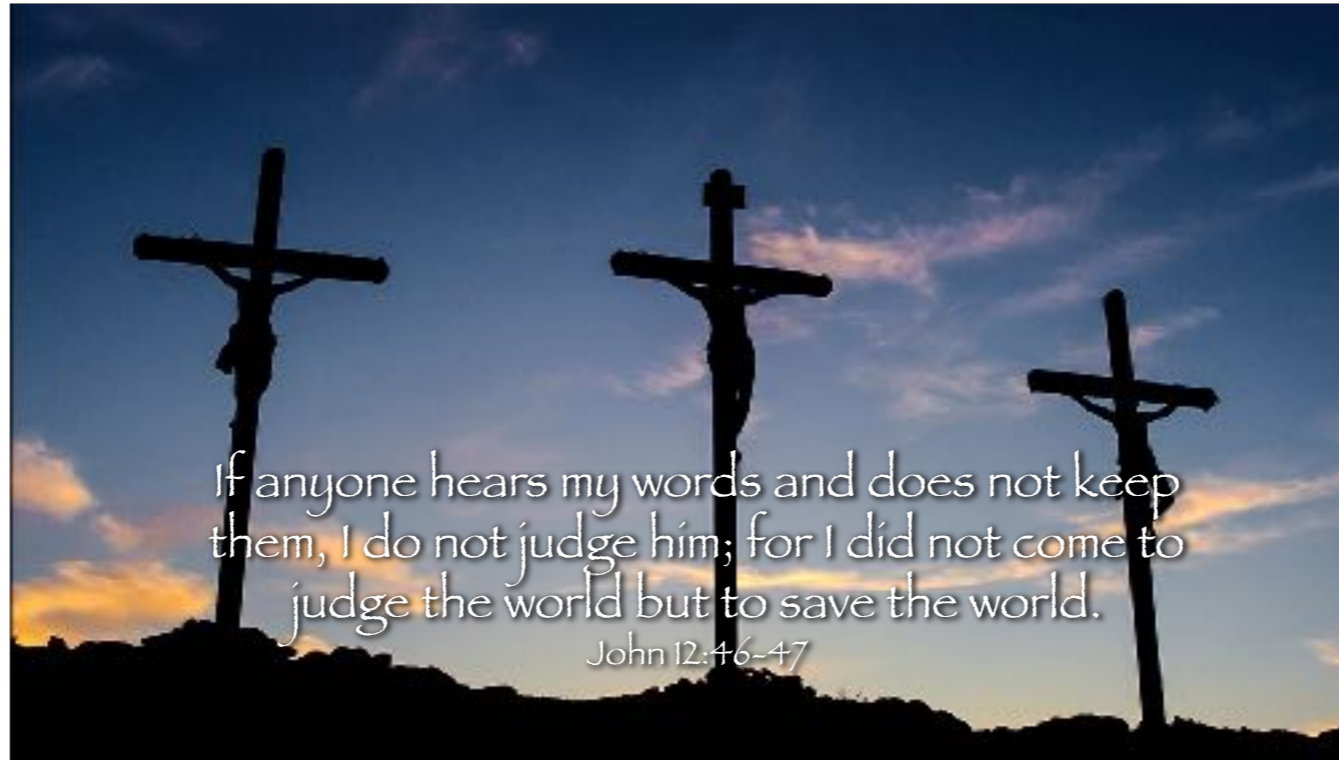


to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God,
Luke 1:77-78

- Zechariah: concerning John and preparing the way of Jesus
- Luke 1:76-79 (ESV) 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
- for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
- 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
- in the forgiveness of their sins,
- 78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
- whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
- 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
- to guide our feet into the way of peace.”



- John 8:15-16 (ESV) 15 You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. 16 Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.



If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

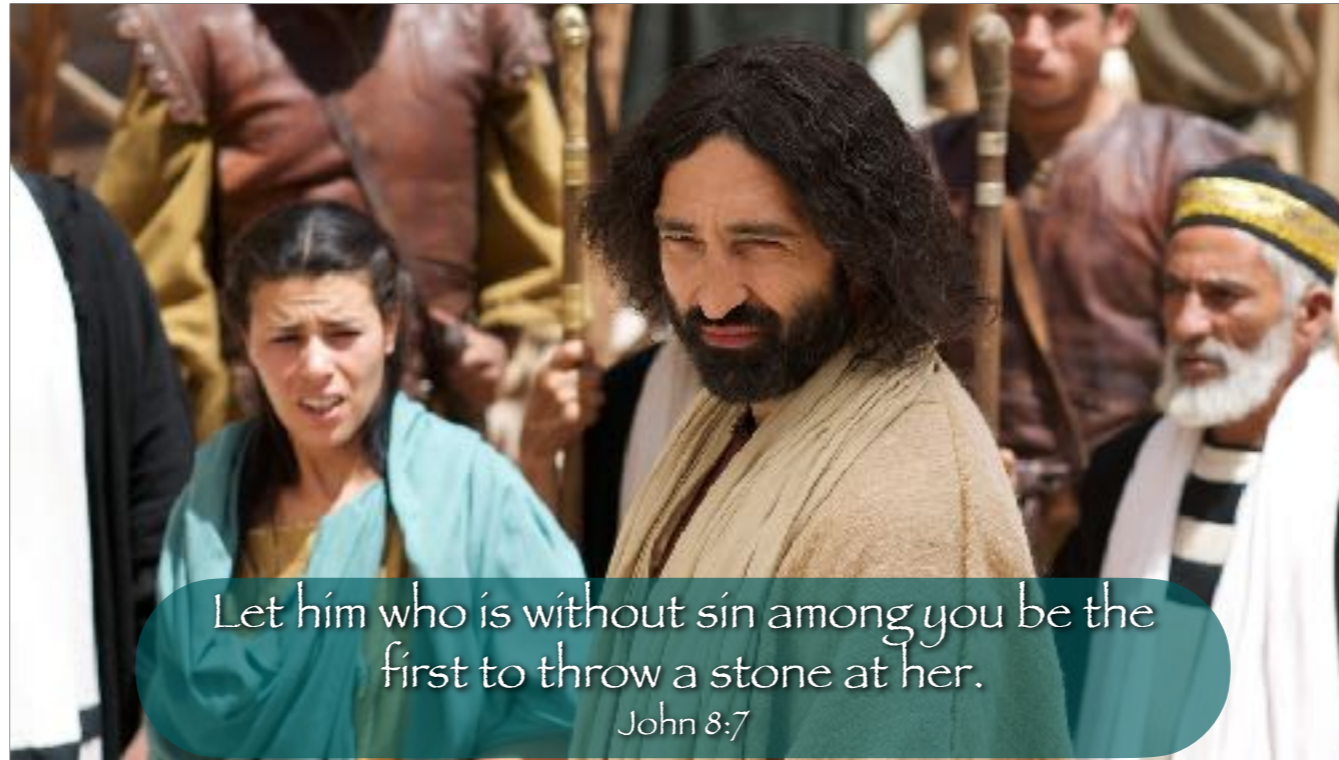
John 12:46-47

- John 12:46-47 (ESV) 46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. 47 If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.



Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?
John 8:4-5

- John 8:2-11 (ESV) 2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst 4 they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?”



Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.
John 8:7

- 6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 **And as they continued to ask him**, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground.



- 9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

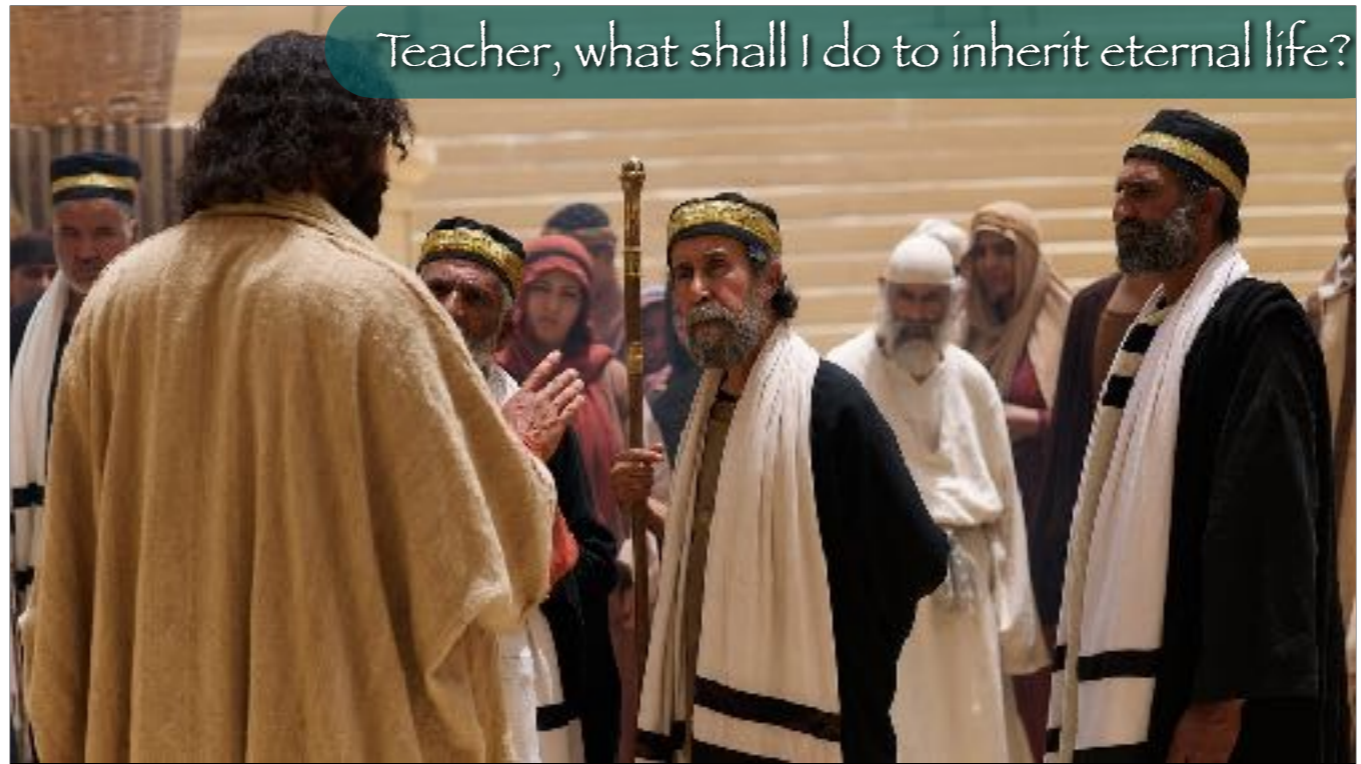


- 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”
 - There was clear instruction in the law.
 - There were witnesses.
- Yet Jesus didn’t condemn.
 - Is this mercy???

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



- James 2:12-13 (ESV) 12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

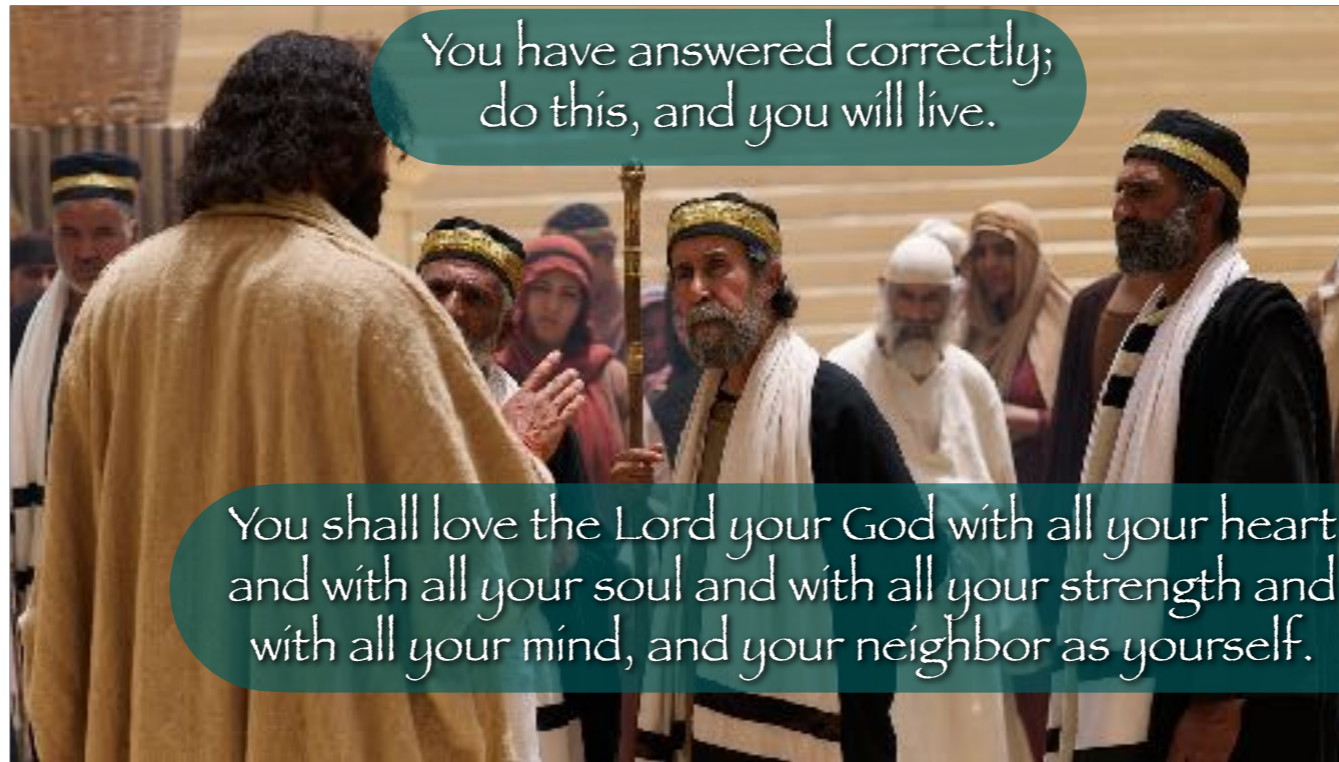


- Luke 10:25-37 (ESV) 25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"



You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.

- 26 He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" 27 And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."



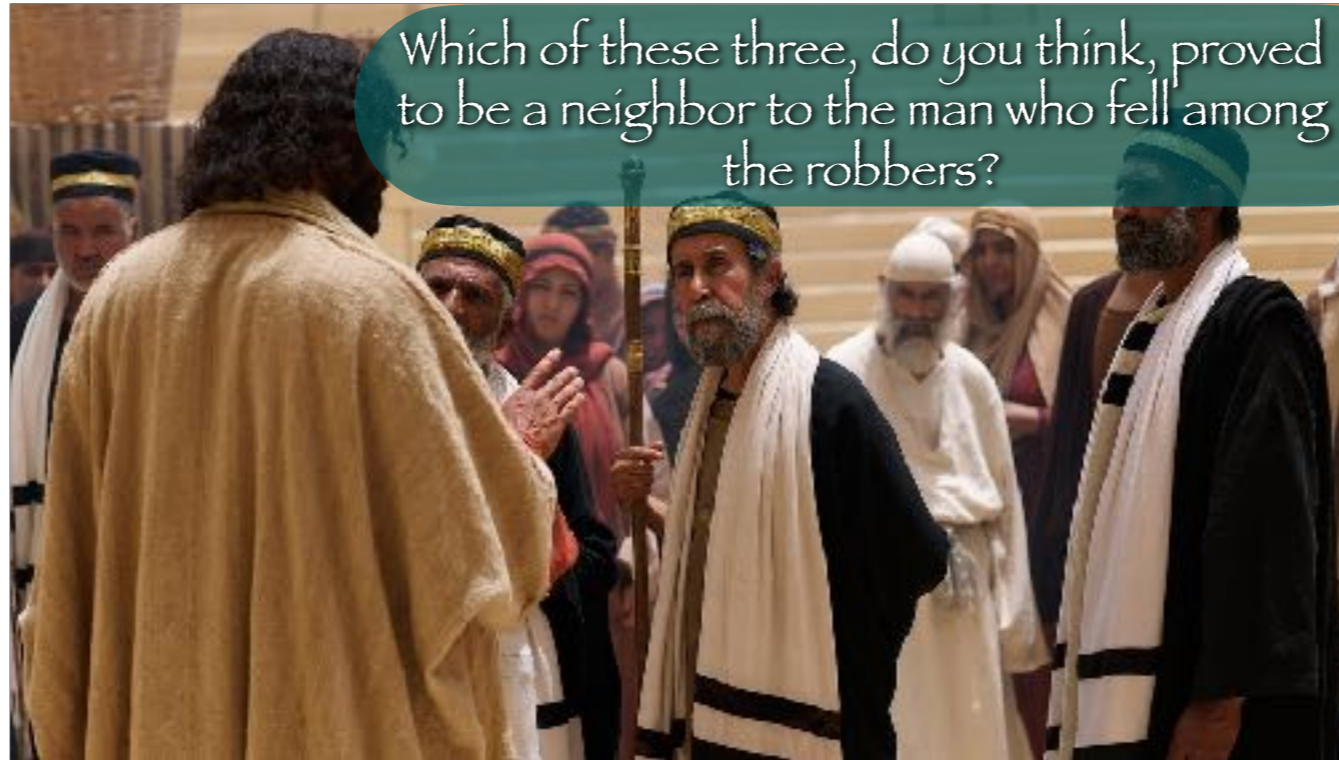
- 28 And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."



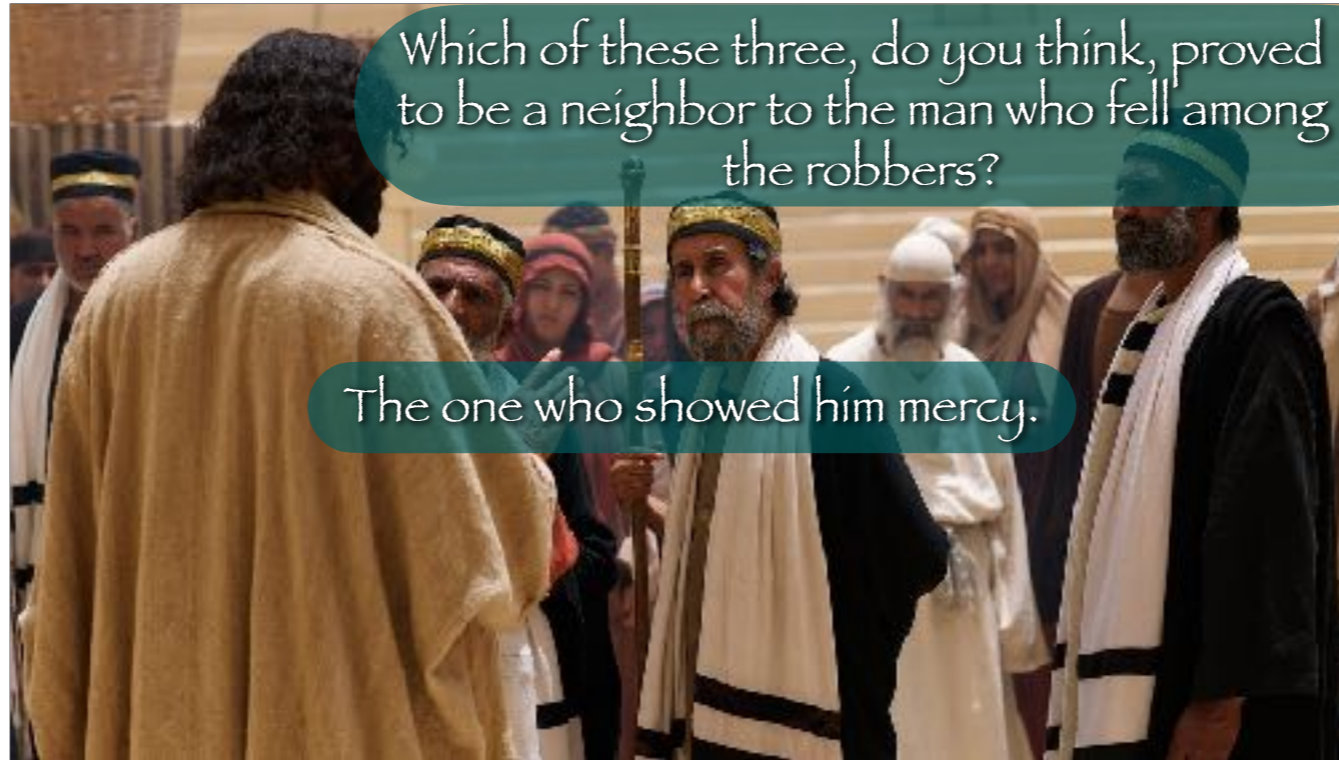
- 29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”



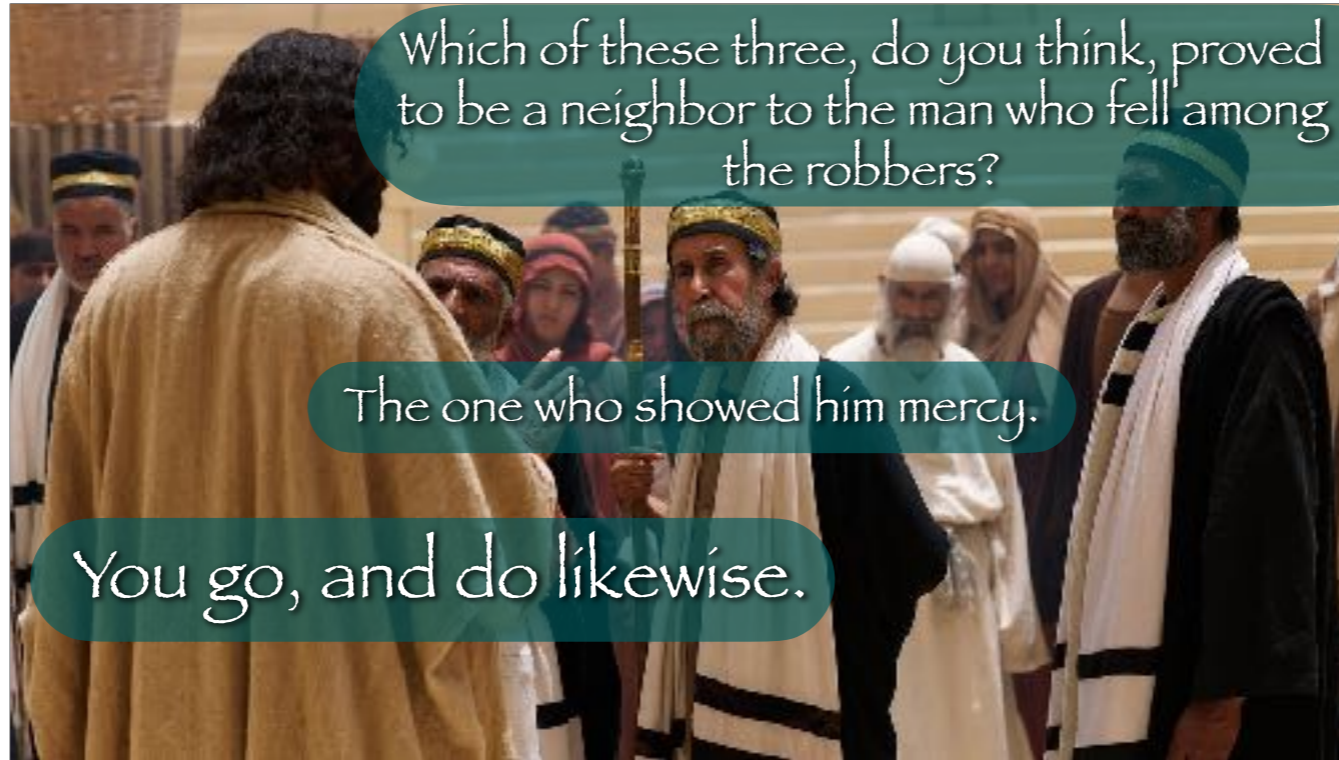
- 30 Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’



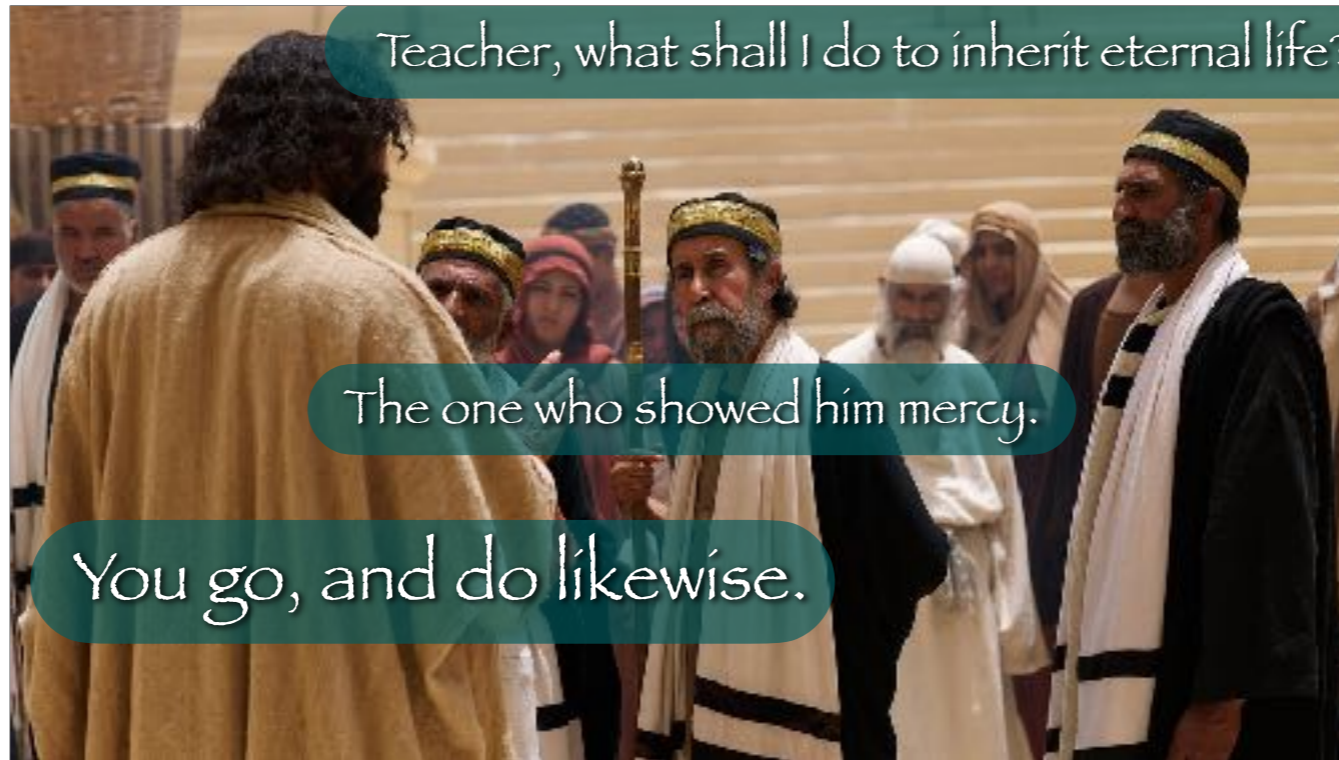
- 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"



- 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy."



- And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”



- “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”
 - Love God ... Love Neighbor
 - 37 He said, “The one who showed him mercy.”
 - And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”
- Jesus draws a very clear connection between eternal life and showing mercy!



Go and learn what this means:
“I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.”
Matthew 9:13

- Learn what this means: I desire mercy, not sacrifice.
- Jesus didn't send us into the world to judge the world, but to teach them how to be saved, to point them to Jesus.
- This requires that we show them mercy knowing their sin, knowing their failures, knowing their struggles.
 - We must think ourselves so holy that we can judge them, pass them by, dismiss them.



Go and learn what this means:
“I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.”
Matthew 9:13

- 1 Corinthians 5:12-13 (ESV) 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? 13 God judges those outside.



- The next time you see someone sinning
 - Don't immediately condemn.
 - Don't judge by the flesh:
 - Mercy triumphs over judgment
 - Let God be the judge
- Jude 1:22-23 (ESV) 22 And have mercy on those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

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THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW
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Matthew 9: 9-13

**MATTHEW IS INVITED
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Luke 10:25-37



PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN



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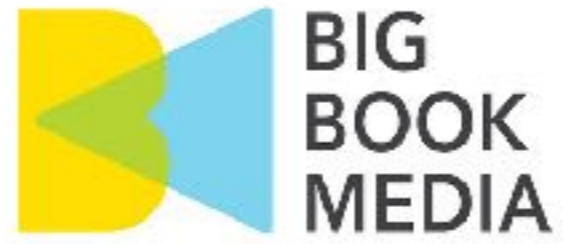


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I Desire Mercy

Matthew 9:13

Synopsis: Jesus reminds us that he came to show mercy not to condemn others. We must learn to not be hard hearted even toward sinners. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”