

On Being Merciful, Part 2

A Study of James 1:18-27

James 1:18-27 “¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. ¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. ²⁶If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” *ESV*

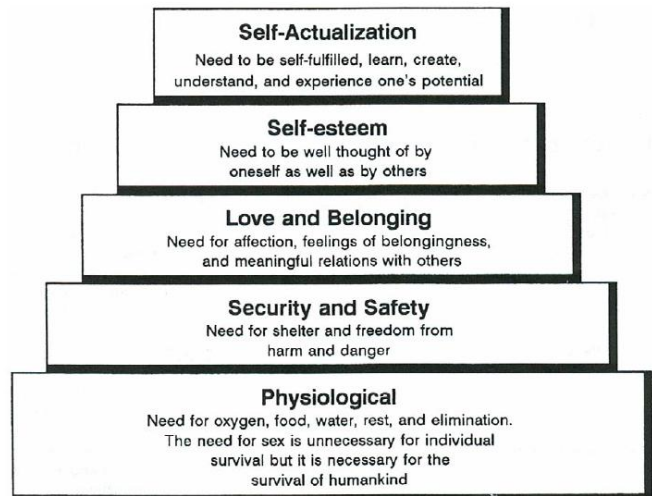
I. Aparxe

II. Prautes

III. Katanoeo

IV. Parakepto

III. Episkapetomai



Big Idea: I am merciful when I am meek.

Psalm 68:5 “Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.” *ESV*

1. Review: Last week we talked about seeing God's mercy in our lives. Share some moments about this week in which you saw God's mercy.
2. Transition: How does a person provide mercy to another? How would you define the need for mercy?
3. Mirror: How do you assess your "religion" (methods of serving God)? Why do people often think they are "bad Christians"? Do you think God can use a person even when they aren't feeling very "Christiany"?
4. What are some ways we can look more intently at the "mirror" and find meaningful ways of serving God?
5. Meek: Define "Meek". Tell the group a person in your life that you would say their primary quality is meekness. Can you be meek and be non-Christian?
6. Why do some feel that they need to "get my life together" before helping others? What is the largest problem with somebody impoverished/lacking basic needs?
7. Why do we look for an incentive before initiative? Why do we like to be asked to do something before jumping in? It seems natural but why?
8. How has God used you to help someone by putting you in a situation where the choice was clear to help?

Psalm 68:5 "Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation." *ESV*