

Grace Guide



MARCH 16-22

“Between Righteousness and Mercy”

MONDAY
3/16

2 SAMUEL 12:1-13

After David’s sin against Uriah and Bathsheba, the prophet Nathan confronts him with a story that exposes the injustice of what he has done. David, who once stood for righteousness, now finds himself guilty of deep wrongdoing. Yet when he finally admits his sin, he encounters something unexpected: God’s mercy. (see also Psalm 51) God does not pretend the sin never happened, but neither does he abandon David. This moment shows us that living faithfully often means standing in the difficult space between righteousness and mercy. God’s righteousness reveals the truth about our sin, but God’s mercy invites us to repent and be restored. When we honestly confess our failures, no matter how small or how heinous they may be, we discover that God’s desire is not to destroy us, but to turn our hearts back toward him.

1. Why do you think Nathan used a story to help David see the truth about his actions? Has there been a time when a story or example helped you recognize something about your own life?
2. What makes confession so difficult for many people, even when we know we have done wrong?

TUESDAY
3/17

JONAH 3:1-4:11

When Jonah finally obeys God and calls Nineveh to repentance, the people respond in humility and turn from their wrongdoing. God then chooses mercy over destruction. Surprisingly, Jonah becomes angry, not because God is unjust, but because God is merciful. Jonah wanted righteousness in the form of punishment for his enemies, but God's compassion extends even to those Jonah despises. This story reminds us that God's mercy often stretches beyond the limits of our own sense of fairness. The season of Lent invites us to examine whether we secretly prefer judgment for others while hoping for mercy for ourselves. God's heart holds both righteousness and mercy together, and God calls his people to learn that same compassion.

1. Why do you think the people of Nineveh responded so quickly to Jonah's warning? When have you responded quickly to a warning that you have done something wrong?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character and priorities?

WEDNESDAY
3/18

JOHN 8:2-11

When the religious leaders bring a woman caught in adultery to Jesus, they believe they have set a trap for Jesus. The law calls for punishment, but Jesus reveals a deeper truth about righteousness and mercy. Instead of ignoring the sin, he invites the accusers to examine their own hearts: "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." One by one they leave. Jesus then turns to the woman with both grace and challenge. He refuses to condemn her, but he also calls her to a new way of living. In this encounter we see how Jesus holds righteousness and mercy together. He does not excuse sin, but meets sinners with compassion that opens the door to transformation.

1. How does Jesus demonstrate both mercy and truth in the way he speaks to the woman? Have you ever experienced similar mercy and truth from the same person?
2. In what situations do you find yourself more inclined to judge others than to show grace? (Or: who do you find it hard to extend grace to?)

THURSDAY
3/19

ROMANS 5:6-11

Paul reminds us that Christ did not wait for us to become righteous before acting on our behalf. Instead, “while we were still weak,” or “while we were yet sinners,” and even “while we were enemies,” Christ died for us. This passage reveals the depth of God’s mercy. God’s righteousness does not demand that we fix ourselves before approaching him. Rather, God takes the first step toward reconciliation. Through Jesus, what once separated us from God is overcome by grace. In the space between our brokenness and God’s holiness, mercy reaches out and restores relationship. During Lent, this passage invites us to remember that our hope does not rest in our ability to earn God’s favor, but in the love God has already shown through Christ.

1. What might these words say about God’s love to people who feel unworthy or distant from God’s grace and mercy?
2. Why does it matter that Christ died for us “while we were yet sinners”?

FRIDAY
3/20

PSALM 85

The psalmist holds together a deep longing for restoration with a confident hope in God’s character, remembering how God has forgiven and restored the people before, and asking God to do so again. At its heart is a beautiful image: “steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.” In God’s kingdom, righteousness and mercy are not enemies. Instead, they come together in a way that brings healing and renewal. Lent invites us to live in this hopeful tension, honestly acknowledging the brokenness around us while trusting that God’s mercy can restore what has been lost. When God moves among his people, righteousness and mercy become partners in bringing life.

1. What does the image of righteousness and peace “kissing” suggest about the way God works in the world?
2. Where do you see signs of God’s restoring work in your life or in the Church or in the community?

**SATURDAY/
SUNDAY
3/21-22**

LUKE 19:1-10

When Jesus meets Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector, the crowd assumes they already know what is about to happen. Zacchaeus is wealthy because he has taken advantage of others, and many believe he deserves judgment and surely this prophet of God is going to rain down wrath on this sinner's head. Yet Jesus invites himself to Zacchaeus's home, offering relationship before condemnation. That act of mercy transforms Zacchaeus who responds by giving generously to the poor and restoring what he has taken unjustly. In this moment we see righteousness and mercy meeting in a powerful way. Jesus extends grace, and that grace awakens a desire for justice and restoration. The story reminds us that salvation is not just about forgiveness, salvation is about transformation. When we encounter the mercy of Christ, our lives begin to change, and we start to reflect God's righteousness in the way we live.

1. What do you think Zacchaeus hoped to see or experience when he climbed the tree to see Jesus?

2. Why do you think Jesus chose to show kindness and hospitality to Zacchaeus before anything else happened? Why do you think Zacchaeus responded the way he did?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

(Luke 19:10)