



**DATE** September 20, 2015

**SPEAKER** David Smith

**TITLE** Introduction

**SERIES** What is wisdom? When is it apparent? How is it gained? Jesus answers these questions when He says wisdom begins with good character. Join us as we look at the character traits Jesus identifies as building blocks for wisdom.

## INTRODUCTION

Jesus helps us have character and character helps us with wisdom and wisdom helps us experience happiness.

## DISCUSSION

1. Pastor David defines character as consistent action because of a right heart. How has your character grown since beginning the series, *Word to the Wise*? Loyalty and Forgiveness are building blocks for wisdom. Share how you have been living this truth since beginning the series. We must integrate the truths of this series into our every day living.

2. Read **Matthew 5:38-6:4**. Where do you see mercy in these three paragraphs? Discuss the difference between grace and mercy. What do you feel is the role of the Holy Spirit as you express mercy to others?

3. Why Mercy?

Mercy is part of God's character. Share an example from the Bible where God's mercy was seen. Read **Psalms 136**. Mercy appears 26 times, mark each one with an *M*. How has God's mercy impacted your life? Knowing this, how can you willingly hold mercy from another?

God has been merciful to me. When have you known God's mercy in your life? How should the fact that you've received mercy from God impact your ability to show mercy to others? According to **Micah 6:8**, what is the requirement for *mercy*? Why do you think *justice, mercy and humility* are all linked together in this Micah 6:8?

I'll need more mercy tomorrow. How should **Matthew 5:7** motivate you to show mercy to another? What is not said directly but definitely inferred in this verse? Explain the meaning of **James 2:13** by applying it to a real-life situation without using names. Pastor David said *We can't receive what we are unwilling to give*. When would there be a valid situation to withhold mercy?

Showing mercy nourishes the soul. Thinking of the times you have shown mercy, how has this nourished your soul? How do you explain mercy as more important than worship? **Hosea 6:6**

4. Facets of Mercy – Identify each Facet of Mercy from within our text, **Matthew 5:38-6:4**.

Be patient with people's quirks – In appreciation for Pastor David being real, share a story where you weren't as patient with another's quirk as you could have been. What makes this facet difficult?

Give people a second chance – What examples are in the Bible where God extends a second chance? What can you learn from these examples for your own life?

Be kind to those who offend and hurt you – According to **1 Timothy 1:16**, why did Paul find mercy?

Build bridges of love to the unpopular – Who are the unpopular in your world and how can you show mercy?

Help anyone hurting around you – Read **Proverbs 3:27**. Connect this verse with the story of the Good Samaritan. Share a modern day Good Samaritan story.

Value relationships over rules – How is **Matthew 12:1-8** a perfect example of *relationships over rules*? What is the hardest part in valuing relationships over rules for you?

5. Which of these Facets of Mercy comes naturally to you? Which Facet of Mercy trips you up more times than you care to admit? How does pride play a role in our inability to extend mercy? Where will you be merciful?

## CLOSING

Be mercifully aware of your surroundings as God extends opportunities for you to extend mercy, which He first extended to you.