



Take It Home

*Applying the Preached Word
Marriage and the Mercy of God
15-17 January 2009
Session 4*

Speaker: Paul David Tripp
Text: James 2:12-13; John 13:2-11; Luke 23:32-43; John 21:15-19
Title: Mercy: The Only Hope for Real Love¹

Key Idea: Mercy is the grand agenda of God.
It is the intersection of compassion, forgiveness and forbearance.
"Mercy is the kind, sympathetic and forgiving treatment of others that works to relieve their distress and to cancel their debt."

Main Points:

Three characteristics of mercy:

1. Compassion
2. Forgiveness
3. Forbearance

Three costs of mercy:

1. Suffering
2. Waiting
3. Sacrificing

Questions for Application:

1. What is my definition of mercy? Is it functional and transformational?
2. How am I doing with compassion toward my spouse? Is there anything within my marriage that is beneath me?
3. Do I delight to give forgiveness? How does Christ's model of extending forgiveness while hanging on the agonising cross inspire me to joyfully and persistently pursue granting forgiveness?
4. *"Forbearance is patient mercy under provocation."* What are the "typical" ways you are provoked in your marriage? How has God called you to model patient mercy?
5. Of the costs listed above, are there any that I am unwilling to take up for the sake of mercy?

¹Quotes herein – Paul David Tripp, "Marriage and the Mercy of God" Conference, Hershey PA, 16 January 2009