

God's Merciful Love

Name: _____

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Rom 3:3-4

3 ³What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?

⁴By no means! Let God be true though every man be false.

We proclaimed this passage from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans every day that we have worked through this chapter. In this passage, Saint Paul challenges us to compare God's faithfulness with our own human ability to remain faithful.

Reread the passage. **What does it say about God's faithfulness even when we are unfaithful?**

Answers may include God is faithful to us and loves us even when we are unfaithful to him, and no matter what we do, God will be ready to forgive us when we repent and turn back to him.

Saint Paul writes, "Let God be true though every man be false." Consider what this means for a moment. Saint Paul is teaching us that God remains true to his word even though mankind often is not. To be true means to do what you say you will do, to keep your promises. Think of a time in your life when someone else, such as a friend, family member, or acquaintance, was not true to his word to you.

How did you respond to that person?

Answers may vary.

Now read the following passage from the Sermon on the Mount.

Mt 6:14-15

6 ¹⁴[Jesus teaches us,] "If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also

forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive them, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

According to this passage, how must we imitate God's merciful love for us?

By forgiving others as God has forgiven us

God commands us to forgive others just as God forgives us. **What did Jesus say would happen if we do not forgive others when they trespass (sin) against us?**

God will not forgive our trespasses.

The good news is that God always gives us the grace to obey his commands. If we pray, God will strengthen us with the grace of the Holy Spirit to love and forgive as he does.

Spend a few moments in silent prayer. Ask God to help you see people in your life to whom you must show mercy and forgiveness. **Write down those people's names below and commit to praying for them this week.**

End by praying an Our Father. Pause for a few moments on the words “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Think about the people whose names you wrote down during this pause. Ask God to give you the grace necessary to show them mercy and forgiveness.

Conclude by thinking about how often God showed Israel mercy in the Book of Judges and how often he shows you mercy in your life. Commit to showing God’s merciful love to others this week, and be thankful for the mercy God has shown you.