

NOT NORMAL



GOING DEEPER AT HOME

FEBRUARY 20: SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES

Have you ever put on someone else's shoes? You may have been a child and decided to wear mom or dad's shoes. Or maybe you just grabbed the closest pair to run outside for something. Or you thought they were your shoes but you accidentally grabbed someone else's. No matter why or how it happened, you probably realized that your feet didn't feel right in the shoes. Wearing someone else's shoes is a way of identifying with that person, it helps us see what life is like for them and it is intended to lead us to change something. This is what it means to extend mercy. Jesus invites us to walk in someone else's shoes and extend lovingkindness.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 5:7

Matthew 18:21 - 35

GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS:

1. Share a time you experienced mercy. How did that impact you?
2. What is something from the message that stood out to you, was new to you or challenged you?
3. When you are hurt by someone, do you react with wanting to seek justice (revenge) or extend mercy? Why is wanting justice such a natural reaction for so many?
4. The story of Patricia Moore is about identifying with suffering of others and then responding to make their life better. How does this shape our understanding of mercy?
5. Read Exodus 34:6 & 7. How does this description of God line up with the way you understand God to be? If there is a difference, how does this reshape your view of God?
6. Jesus says that those who show mercy will receive mercy. What does He mean?
7. Read Matthew 18:21 - 35. Why is it so hard for us to extend mercy even though we've experienced it ourselves?
8. What does Jesus mean when He says the unmerciful will be thrown in prison & tortured?
9. What step is the Holy Spirit asking you to take right now to show mercy to someone?