

The Depth of God's Mercy

2 Kings 21:1-16; Luke 15:11-16

2 Chronicles 33:10-13; Luke 15:17-24

Intro: Mercy may be whatever it takes to humble a person's heart before the Lord.

Example: *A Severe Mercy* by Sheldon Vanauken.

I. The depth of human sin

- a. The LORD's regret. Genesis 6:5-7
- b. Manasseh's wickedness in Judah. 2 Kings 21:1-16
- c. Our own sinful hearts. Jeremiah 17:9

II. The depth of Godly discipline

- a. Tough love: the staff of correction and rebuke
- b. Tougher love: watching the prodigal go astray
- c. Toughest love: the exquisite suffering of God's Son

III. The depth of God's mercy

- a. Mercy is recognized only by the humble in heart
- b. Mercy is received only by the penitent
- c. To know God's mercy is to know the heart of the LORD

Close: One of the simplest and purest prayers in the Bible is that of

the tax collector in Jesus' illustration in Luke 18:13:

"God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

Imagine God's delight if everyone in the world prayed this prayer today!