**A Severe Mercy**

**Sometimes God’s mercies are severe.**

**1. God’s severe mercy at** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A. God sacrificed their sons so that His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would live.

B. God sacrificed His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so that their sons would live.

**2. God’s severe mercy at the** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 136:10-15

A. Severity toward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B. Mercy toward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**3. God’s severe mercy in disciplining** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hosea 6:1

The God who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is the God who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**4. God’s severe mercy in the history of** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Romans 11:22, 25-32

A. The present salvation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B. The future salvation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion**—The proper response to severe mercy

Romans 11:33-36

A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. Did the Lord speak to you today about Himself and His ways? Did He show you a duty you need to perform or a promise you need to claim? What was either encouraging or challenging in the sermon?

2. How has God’s severity been used for a merciful result in your life?

3. We will not experience the final, merciful result from God’s severity until we see Him face to face. What helps you wait until that time?

4. Background for Matthew 2:15

Israel was God’s national son (Exodus 4)

The Messiah is God’s kingly Son (Psalm 2)

As God brought His national son out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1), so He brought His kingly Son out of Egypt.

5. Background for Matthew 2:17-18

Rachel was one of the 4 mothers of the 12 tribes of Israel. Even though she was not the birth-mother of the people who lived in Bethlehem, she was Jacob’s favorite wife. These were her husband’s children, and so they were hers as well. (We see the same principle in Genesis 37:10. Although Leah was not the birth-mother of Joseph, Jacob refers to her as Joseph’s mother since Rachel was dead.)

Rachel’s grave was near Bethlehem (Genesis 35:19).

Jeremiah 31:15 pictures the long-dead Rachel as weeping over her children who have been taken into captivity.

Matthew 2:17-18 pictures Rachel as weeping again, now over the slaughter of the infants near her grave.

**A Severe Mercy**

**Sometimes God’s mercies are severe.**

**1. God’s severe mercy at *Bethlehem***

A. God sacrificed their sons so that His *Son* would live.

B. God sacrificed His *Son* so that their sons would live.

**2. God’s severe mercy at the *Exodus***

Psalm 136:10-15

A. Severity toward *Egypt*

B. Mercy toward *Israel*

**3. God’s severe mercy in disciplining *Israel***

Hosea 6:1

The God who *wounds* is the God who *heals*.

**4. God’s severe mercy in the history of *salvation***

Romans 11:22, 25-32

A. The present salvation of *Gentiles*

B. The future salvation of *Israel*

**Conclusion**—The proper response to severe mercy

Romans 11:33-36

A. *Humility*

B. *Praise*

**For additional study or family discussion**

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