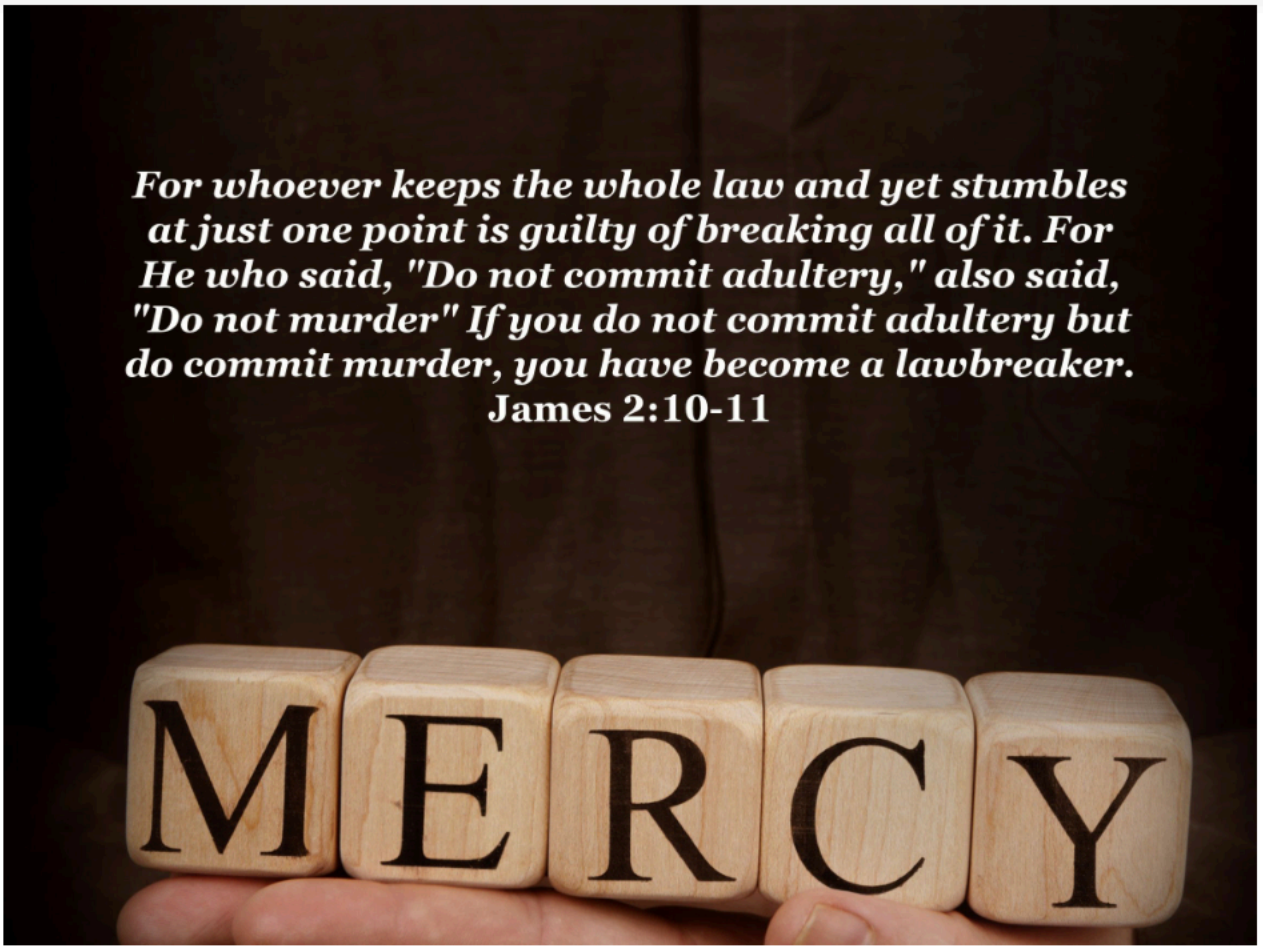


DEVOTION:

Imagine that there is a judge who has to solve a dispute between two people. The one slandered those around him.

The other murdered a few people after he had sexually abused them. Which one would you set free?

God would not have set one of them free. They are both just as guilty. Accordingly, we should cease thinking that some sins are not as bad as others. According to James, even a small body part like the tongue can corrupt the whole person (see James 3:6).

We sin every day. Thus, we need God's grace every day.

God calls us to overcome the sin in our lives. Instead of being controlled by our sin or merciless behavior in whatever form - gossiping, adultery, stealing, slandering, desire, judging - we should rather be controlled by mercy toward each other.

God has taken control of our lives through His mercy. Let us therefore speak and act as people who have been liberated by the Word of God (see James 2:12).