

## Biblical root of God's "mercy" in Luke

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"Be merciful [Greek, *oiktirmones*, from *oiktirmōn*], just as your Father is merciful [Greek, *oiktirmōn*]" (Luke 6.36)

### IN THE LXX, WE FIND AS EXAMPLES:

"YHWH, YHWH, a God merciful [Greek, *oiktirmōn*] and gracious [Greek, *eleēmōn*], slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love [Greek, *poleuleos*] and faithfulness [Greek, *alēthinos*]." (Exodus 34.6)

"But you, O Lord, are a God merciful [Greek, *oiktirmōn*] and gracious [Greek, *eleēmōn*], slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love [Greek, *poleuleos*] and faithfulness [Greek, *alēthinos*]." (Psalm 86.15)

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*oiktirmōn* + *eleēmōn*: 4 times in Septuagint (Greek; the 4<sup>th</sup> occurrence, Sirach 2.11, is not in the Hebrew Bible)

*Oiktirmōn*: 19 times

*Eleēmōn*: 32 times

*poleuleos* + *alēthinos*: 3 times; Numbers 14.18)

*poleuleos*: 11 times

*alēthinos*: 50 times

### HEBREW ORIGINAL:

"YHWH, YHWH, a God merciful [Hebrew, *rachum*] and gracious [Hebrew, *channun*], slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love [Hebrew, *chesed*] and faithfulness [Hebrew, *'emeth*]." (Exodus 34.6)

"But you, O Lord, a God merciful [Hebrew, *rachum*] and gracious [Hebrew, *channun*], slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love [Hebrew, *chesed*] and faithfulness [Hebrew, *'emeth*]." (Psalm 86.15)

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*Rachum* + *channun*: 3 times in Masoretic Text (Hebrew)

*rachum*: 13 times

*channun*: 13 times

*chesed* + *'emeth*: 26 times

[*chesed* often translated into Greek as *eleos*, "mercy"]

*Chesed* alone: 249 times

*'emeth* alone: 127 times