

# *Mercy Is God's Desire*

***“For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offering.”***

***(Hosea 6: 6)***

It might be difficult to follow what the word of God tells? Yet, it is a challenge for us to follow what we read. There are two ways; the way of man and the way of God. The way of man seems all right but when you examine it carefully you will find injustice, fraud, corruption, and other inhumane ways. God's word, the Bible, declares God's ways and it is the best measure to examine and check man ways.

Have you ever encountered a generous person, or heard about a well-known charitable organization that is helping and giving to the needy people? The more they give the more their names are published and news spread about them. As they are giving, the more they become famous in the society. But our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ tells us something different about giving.

***“Be careful not to do your “acts of righteousness” before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth; they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” (Matthew 6: 1-4)***

What then is the word of God teaching us? As we read the above passage of Jesus' teaching, let us meditate on it and apply in our lives:

- 1- **The good motive of giving:** Why do we give to the needy people? Why we put our hand in our pockets to help the poor? Why we give? Let us go back looking on the life of our Lord Jesus why He was giving to the people. When He gave the bread and the fish to the crowd of four thousands He said to His disciples, ***“I have compassion for this people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.” (Matthew 15:32)*** Jesus gave the people food to eat only because they were hungry, but as well as His great love to them made Him felt their hunger. He saw not only their need but also He felt and shared with their suffering.

This is how God wants us to give. As we feel the pain and the burden of others and we desire to help and to alleviate their pain, we find ourselves able to give with good motive: ***“Carry each other's burden, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)***

Out of the great love of God to the people, He sent His son Jesus to save them from pain, suffering, shame, sin, and death. Jesus, when He saw the people living in darkness, He gave His life as a light to them. He suffered and died on the cross and

He paid the price: ***“He was crushed for our iniquities, the punishment that brought us peace was upon him.” (Isaiah 53:5)*** Taking that perfect example of our Lord Jesus, it inspires us about the good purpose behind giving to the needy. ***“As He died for all that those who live should no longer live for them but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” (2 Corinthians 5:15)***

- 2- **The reward of giving:** What would be the value of giving to the needy when we gain man's praise? It will be the same as useless. Many have missed the goal. When we have God's love in our heart we will not accept praise that comes from one another, but we make our effort to obtain the praise that comes from God the Father. Therefore we give in secret to please God.
- 3- **Giving is not only material things but even praying to people especially to those who are in need. Encouraging others and comforting them are all sort of giving that we need to observe:**
- 4- **The faith to give:** As we support and supply the needs of other people around us in secret, we have the faith in God that He Himself will reward and provide for us. When our eyes are focused on God we do not look to what man can provide us, ***“Because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you” so we say in confidence, the Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.” What man can do to me? (Hebrew 13:5-6)*** We receive freely and we give also freely. We understand one thing, that we are only channels of blessing. This means that God uses us to bless other people. We are not supposed to hinder but to promote God's blessing; not to boast in what we give but to thank God who gives us and who enables us to give to others; not only just to give but also to have the truest desire to give. ***“Just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us-that you also excel in this grace of giving.” (2 Corinthians 8:7)***

***My dear and beloved:*** You may observe in the atmosphere around you many ways of giving and donation. You may watch it publicly, or on the TV screens how giving is accompanied by many announcements and propagandas. And how those who give are publicly honored and praised. As well as, you may feel jealous to many people who boast with their own mouth what they have done. But remember, in doing so they have already received their reward in full not from God but from men – a worthless reward. Remember that God loves a cheerful giver who gives because he has God's love in his heart; who loves the people honestly because he is loved by God. That cheerful giver gives in secret because he wants to please no man but God the Father in heaven.

***“Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus. Thank You because You gave me your Son to die for my sins to give me eternal life. O Lord transforms me, remove from me my pride, and humble me to do your will. I surrender myself into your hands. Use me as a channel of blessing, pleasing you for giving cheerfully to the needy, and having faith in You Father, that you who sees what is done in secret will reward me in secret. Again, I thank you also for all your blessings. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen!”***