

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 20

“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7 KJV) This is a character that will give you back what you are giving to others. Give to others what you want to receive from God. If you want forgiveness, then forgive others, if you want mercy, then show mercy to others.

Blessed are the merciful who show mercy to the bodies of men in the following ways:

1. They show mercy to those who are poor and who lack lot of basic things in life.
2. They show mercy to the needy, those who lack a certain thing. Those who lack a certain thing they might be rich but they are lacking other things and they need it.
3. They show mercy to the miserable, those who lack lot of basic things for living in addition to that they are in an unfavourable circumstances, like they are in war, in sicknesses, under the effect of rubbers, prison, kidnapped, abused, natural calamities, etc.

So to all these groups in order for us to show mercy we need to evaluate the need and we need to give what they required.

How to do that? Not only by both sympathizing with them, not only by making use of expressions of pity and concern toward them, but distributing unto them to their needs, and communicating to them what they lack with readiness and cheerfulness, with affection and tenderness.

We show mercy also by instructing men who are ignorant, who does not know the Word of God and the will of God, giving them good counsel, direction in life and advice.

We show mercy by reproving them for sin, correcting them, praying for them, forgiving injuries done by them.

We show mercy by comforting those that are cast down. To show mercy is very delightful to and desirable by God; it is what He requires from us as children of God, and that will make us more like Him who is our Heavenly Father.

The happiness of such persons is this, that they shall obtain mercy; from man, whenever they are attended with any uncomfortable circumstances of life; whoever is merciful, men will show mercy to him: and from God, through Christ; which is free, sovereign, abundant, and eternal.

Men are said to obtain mercy, when they are regenerated, and called by grace. *When we are saved by the blood of Jesus, we are receiving the mercy of God in the forgiveness of our sins.* Therefore, from that moment we are called to be conscience to provide and show mercy to those needing them whenever we are discovering that and whenever and whatever they need them. With that we are also eligible to obtain grace and mercy, which we as merciful persons may expect to find and obtain, at the throne of grace, to help us in times of need.

More than the mercy we receive from God now in this life, we are also eligible for God's mercy in the world to come, in the great day of the Lord; for which the Apostle prayed for Onesiphorus, ***“The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.”*** (2 Timothy 1:18 KJV) Onesiphorus visited Paul and helped him in his affliction in prison when he was in Rome. He searched for Paul, he looked where he was to reach him. He and his family were of good help for Paul. They helped Paul and shown mercy when Paul was in Ephesus, and now Onesiphorus showed him again mercy in Rome. Onesiphorus was not ashamed of Paul and was not afraid to help Paul, therefore Paul wished him that he will be shown mercy by the Lord, not only he but his family as well as, ***“16 The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain: 17 But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me. 18 The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.”*** (2 Timothy 1:16-18 KJV) Paul wished him that the more, because the Romans whom Paul was expecting to help him and be with him, they did not do that toward him when Paul was in need. ***Therefore be diligent to reach out people whom God wants you to reach and to help them. Be patient and willing to suffer to show mercy to others and that is the way that you will obtain mercy from God.***

Paul wished mercy to the family of Onesiphorus, because Onesiphorus will not be able to move unless his family will support him. The whole family should work together to show mercy to those who are in need of mercy.

Our God is merciful. Let us now study the Scriptures so we can discover how God show mercy and let us learn from the Scripture and from God how to show mercy:

1. God showed mercy to Lot and to his family by saving them from His judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah: When God saved lot, his wife and his two daughters from destruction, Lot recognized that as a mercy of God to Him. Lot in that miserable situation that he was in was able to see the grace and the mercy of God. Can we be able to see the grace of God and His mercy to us even in situations that we are losing things from our lives? God also added to His mercy to Lot, by accepting his request to go to zoar and not to the mountain to start with, possibly because it is difficult for him to climb the mountain, for God accepted the request of Lot when he saw his obedience and his willingness to come out from Sodom, ***“18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my LORD: 19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: 20 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. 21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. 22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. 23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. 24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.”*** (Genesis 19:18-25 KJV) Lot shown mercy because he would probably not

able to walk or climb the mountain. Lot was willing to loss everything he has in Sodom, his house, his belongings, and his daughters' families. Indeed he lost them all, and he was in need and he was in miserable situation, therefore God was merciful to him. Somebody had said that certain times God when he is taking something from us he is blessing us and he is showing us mercy. In the same way God is merciful to us when He saved us, and He will continually show mercy to us when He see us obedience to Him, when He sees our willingness to come out from sin and worldliness and willing to give up material things in order to walk in His ways and in doing His will.

If we read further we can find out the following: ***"But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."* (Genesis 19:26 KJV)** God was merciful to Lot and his family, but not to the extent that he will tolerate sin. God dealt with Lot's wife and with her disobedience. He is merciful but He will judge when things go wrong. He will judge when He sees us abusing the grace of God: ***"6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation."* (Exodus 34:6-7 KJV)**

***2. God showed mercy to Abraham by giving him a Godly wife for his son Isaac: "And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren."* (Genesis 24:27 KJV)** This is the praise of the servant of Abraham when God led him to the house of Abraham's brother to get a wife for Isaac from there. The Lord showed his mercy to Abraham through leading his servant to reach the family of his brother in Mesopotamia. God with this step secured a Godly wife for Isaac, so Abraham will have Godly descendents after Isaac.

Abraham was neither poor, nor he was miserable but he was having a certain need. In the same way, as we set our hearts to live a Godly life, to have Godly families, to raise up our children in a Godly way, God will honour our desire for our children to have Godly families, that He will find for them Godly women whom will form their Godly families and they will be having Godly children.

The servant of Abraham recognized the mercy of God on his master Abraham when he saw that God led him to the house of Abraham's brother and found the suitable wife, Rebekah for Isaac. As Abraham was in obedience to God, He showed him mercy. It might be that Abraham obtained mercy after he had shown mercy. Abraham showed mercy to Isaac when he bound him on the altar and was willing to offer to God as a burnt offering. Therefore we need also to show mercy whenever we are led by God toward our families and children, because we don't know which time that we need God to return such mercy to us.

Abraham was not poor, but he was rich. Abraham was not in miserable condition, and he was well to do, but he was in need to secure the future of his son Isaac. In the same way even we are rich, even we are well to do, still we will need the mercy of God to sustain

certain needs in our lives. Therefore we need to continue to obey God and show mercy to others around us.

***3. The mercy of God to Joseph when was thrown in prison because of the slur of Potiphar's wife: "But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison."* (Genesis 39:21 KJV)** We know the story of Joseph that he was sold by his brothers, he was brought to Egypt, he worked as slave and servant in Potiphar's house, he progressed in his service and he received favor from his master, and God blessed his master because of Joseph. But now, here Joseph in his condition in prison was miserable. He was persecuted, abused and afflicted with injustice. He worked hard to build himself in the house of Potiphar and he did lot of achievements, but here we can see that the woman did bad to him. The mercy of God will show us mercy in the way that what was intend to be bad for us will be turning to our good. God showed mercy toward Joseph, by giving him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. That favor had sustained him to wait until the time that Pharaoh would needed him. Joseph tried to leave earlier but it did not work because God had a certain time for him and he needed to stay there till God's timing. If someone will come and help Joseph to be released earlier that will not be the mercy of God. He would be released but the plan of God will not come true in His life. Here Joseph although fell down in the hand of evil doers and was under injustice, the Lord meant of it for Joseph to be further promoted and to be raised up. The mercy that God granted for Joseph had helped him to be sustained in that miserable place, the prison. Joseph needed to be sustained there till the time that he will be taken out to stand before Pharaoh. The mercy of God will sustain us till the time we reached to our promotion. We need to pray and cry to God to have mercy on us, till the time that He will come and take us to be with Him in heaven and forever.

We need to understand the ways of God so we can grasp how God will show His mercy then we can imitate God and receive from him mercy. We may not understand the mercy of God in the time of suffering. It need us much grace from God to make us realize how He is merciful to us even during the time of the midst of troubles.

Part of our growth and maturity is when God would allow us to pass such miserable experiences in life. We need to understand and accept that sufferings that God is allowing are something good for our benefit that one day will harvest the mercy of God on us.

It was the mercy of God not to release Joseph early from prison. It was the mercy of God to sustain Joseph to stay in the prison till the time to be released to be second to Pharaoh. Certain time we cannot understand what is going on because we cannot grasp or see the whole scenario that the Lord had ordained for our lives.

***4. Jacob appealed to the mercy of God that the man in Egypt (Joseph) would send back Simeon and Benjamin back with his other children: "And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin. If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."* (Genesis 43:14 KJV)** This event is 22 years after the loss of Joseph. Joseph was sold at the age of 17. At the age of thirty came

out from prison to be in Pharaoh's service. Seven years of plenty made his age 37 and he met his brethren in the second year of famine when he was 39 years old.

Jacob was afflicted emotionally much after the news of the lost of his son Joseph. His other children conspire against Joseph because he was favoured by Jacob, and caused him to be sold to be brought as slave to Egypt. Jacob had showed favouritism among his children, and that had caused him many troubles; therefore, there was hectic situation at that time with what the brethren did wrong toward Joseph and their hiding of the matter to Jacob. The Lord finally showed greater mercy when the brethren repented of their sins, and showed their willingness to be again faithful, trusted and responsible. God showed them greater mercy when they repented, and finally brought all of them to Egypt, to be well provided, and to be well supplied. Jacob wished mercy in the form of sending back Simeon and Benjamin to him, but when his children repented God showed them greater mercy. The mercy of God is greater than what we ask or imagine.

In the same way, God would do the same with us when we repent of our sins and our wrong ways of life, and amend and put them in line with the ways of God. He will show us greater mercy than what we asked of Him. The situation that we might be passing through might be mysterious, famine wise, troubled relationships, but God is in full control and he is dealing with sin and He is bringing His justice and with mercy that goes also along our repentance. Certain times we are asking why things need longer time to happen? This is because God is dealing with many various issues and sins and this will take time, depending on the people concerns and we among them if we had made our decision to repent and to do of what God wanted from us to do.

Imagine how God will move on the behalf of Joseph's brothers and his father Jacob if they would not repent? Jacob was forced to send Benjamin against all his favoritism. When Joseph wanted to detain Benjamin, Judah went forth and explained to Joseph how their father is bound with Benjamin and what will happen to Jacob their father, if Benjamin is not with them. Judah also said to Joseph to take him instead of the boy because the life of their father linked with that boy, **"30 Now therefore when I come to thy servant my father, and the lad be not with us; seeing that his life is bound up in the lad's life; 31 It shall come to pass, when he seeth that the lad is not with us, that he will die: and thy servants shall bring down the gray hairs of thy servant our father with sorrow to the grave. 32 For thy servant became surety for the lad unto my father, saying, If I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame to my father for ever. 33 Now therefore, I pray thee, let thy servant abide instead of the lad a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren. 34 For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad be not with me? lest peradventure I see the evil that shall come on my father."** (Genesis 45:30-34 KJV) The Scriptures like real movies, and it describe to us real events and give us insights how we reflect them into our lives. God needed to deal with the favouritism of Jacob, the jealousy of the brothers, their crimes, their lies and their hidings from their father what they did, then the Lord will release His full mercy on them.

My dear and beloved:

To show mercy is by instructing men who are ignorant, who does not know the Word of God and the will of God, giving them good counsel, direction in life and advice.

To show mercy is by reproving people for sin, correcting them, praying for them, and forgiving injuries done by them.

To show mercy is by comforting those that are cast down.

To show mercy is very delightful to, and desirable by God; it is what He requires from us as children of God, and that will make us more like Him who is our Heavenly Father.

To show mercy is to obtain mercy from men and God through Christ as we are merciful to others as the Holy Spirit leading us.

When we are saved by the blood of Jesus, we are receiving the mercy of God in the forgiveness of our sins. Therefore, from that moment we are called to be conscience to provide and show mercy to those needing them. With that we are also become eligible to obtain grace and mercy to help us in time of need.

Be diligent to reach out people whom God wants you to reach and to help them. Be patient and willing to suffer to show mercy to others and that is the way that you will obtain mercy from God.

Therefore we need also to show mercy whenever we are led by God, because we don't know which time that we need God to return such mercy to us.

Consider also, that certain times God when he is taking something from us he is blessing us and he is showing us mercy.

As we set our heart to live a Godly life, to have Godly family, to raise up our children in a Godly way, God will honour our desire for our children to have Godly families, that He will find for them Godly women whom will form their Godly families and they will be having Godly children.

The mercy of God will show us mercy in the way that what was intend to be bad for us will be turning to our good. We need to understand the ways of God so we can grasp how God will show His mercy, then we can imitate God and receive from him mercy. We may not understand the mercy of God in the time of suffering. It need us much grace from God to make us realize how He is merciful to us even during the times of the midst of troubles. Certain times we cannot understand what is going on because we cannot grasp and see the whole scenario that the Lord had ordained for our lives.

Part of our growth and maturity is when God would allow us to pass such miserable experiences in life. We need to understand and accept that sufferings that God is allowing are something good for our benefit that one day will harvest the mercy of God on us.

The mercy of God will sustain us until the time we reached to our promotion. We need to pray and cry to God to have mercy on us, till the time that He will come and take us to be with Him in heaven and forever.

The situation that we might be passing through might be mysterious, famine wise, troubled relationships, but God is in full control and he is dealing with sin and He is bringing His justice and with mercy that goes also along our repentance. Certain times we are asking why things need longer time to happen? This is because God is dealing with many various issues and sins and this will take time, depending on the people concerns and we among them if we had made our decision to repent and do what God wanted from us to do.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death on the third day to give me eternal life.

Let us confess and renounce our sins to the Lord. Let us renounce our worldliness, our idols and the wrong plans and the wrong ways of life that contradict the Word of God. Let us renounce our stubbornness, pride, lack of humility, complacencies and the lack of commitment. Let us remember all our sins that we had done in the past and let us repent of them all.

Let us commit ourselves to live in holiness, to listen and obey the voice of God and to do diligently what He is asking us to do and to show mercy to those whom He wants us to show. Let us commit ourselves to obey the teaching in this message and let us impart mercy to our families, friends and relatives and use it to empower great commission of Jesus that the Lord wants us to get involved with.

Let us give thanks to God for the mercies that we received from the Lord in saving us, in healing us, in delivering us from troubles, and in giving us favor and mercy in times of need.

Lord, I commit my life to be willing to show mercy as you had showed your mercy to me. Lord, I commit myself to hearken to your voice and to the instructions of your Word. Lord, I commit myself to preach your Gospel to my family, my household, friends and relatives and to show them the same mercy that you showed me.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had humbled themselves before you to apply the principles that we learn from your Word in this message and to show mercy to others as they received mercy from you. Lord protects them and provides all their needs. Lord comfort them and assure them that you are with them and leading them in their lives. Lord fills them once again with the Holy Spirit and makes their lives' testimony attractive to others so that people will believe in you and start to follow you and live according to your Word. Lord use them to evangelize and to make new disciples of yours.

Lord, I pray for us as a church to help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord fills us once again with the Holy Spirit and enables us to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the Word of God. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies

and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

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