

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 21

“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.

We will continue in this message to find out how God is showing mercy so we can grasp how we can show mercy to others.

The Scripture teaches us that the Lord shall show mercy to us, in saving us and even after our salvation He will continue in His mercy to us. Moses in his song to God after the Exodus from Egypt and after crossing the sea, he said, ***“Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.” (Exodus 15:13 KJV) God will not only save us but He will lead us and He will deal with us. He will lead us and He will also squeeze us. He will lead us and He will provide for us. He will lead us and He will discipline us.*** As we love the Lord and showing that in obeying Him and in obeying His commands, God also will show us mercy, as He said, ***“And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.” (Exodus 20:6 KJV) “And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.” (Deuteronomy 5:10 KJV)*** God will show us mercy when we love Him as we are obeying His commands.

“And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.” (Exodus 33:19 KJV) This is how God showed Himself to Moses, when He hid him in the cleft and covered him with his hand and passed before him so Moses would not see the face of God and die. God did that after Moses dealt with the Israelites who made the golden calf and worshipped it and kindle the wrath of God against them.

Let us read the whole event and explain, ***“12 And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me.” (Exodus 33:12 KJV)*** (Moses was asking God and he was concerned of whom God will send with him. God had asked Moses to bring the people to the Promise Land. Moses knew the hardness of what is going ahead of him, and the hard headedness of the people and the enemies that he may meet and those who would come out against him. Moses was longing that God and the presence of God will go with him, not only with him but as well as with them. We need God to go with us so that He can lead us in the correct path and to lead us and put us with the right people and at the right time. ***“Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.” (Exodus 33:12 KJV)*** Moses in the previous chapter had dealt with the people’s sin and he worked with God to put sin outside the camp. Now Moses is approaching God and appealing to Him that he wanted Him to be with Him again. ***“13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.” (Exodus 33:13 KJV)*** Moses now asking God to show him His way, so that he will know which way he need to take to go to his destination. Moses asked God this because the Lord

already declared to him that he had found grace in His sight. With that request of Moses desiring God to show His way, the Lord declared to him that He Himself will go with him. ***“14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.” (Exodus 33:14 KJV) We need to plead with God to go with us in this life. We are lost without God. His presence is indispensable to us. We need God’s presence; we need His grace, His goodness and His mercy to be with us. With God’s presence there is the leading of God into the right direction, at the right time and with the right people. For all these things we need to go in pace with God and be obedient to Him and follow precisely His steps.***

We cannot manage without God, that is why we need to repent, we need to go back to God, we need to deal with the people’s sin and cleanse ourselves and the church of the things that displeased God so His presence will come back to us. ***“15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.” (Exodus 33:15 KJV)*** Moses was fully convinced that he cannot manage without God. He was insisting to receive God’s presence and His approval before he moves. Moses was appealing to God of how the people would know that he and the people with him had found grace in God’s sight. Moses was putting the postulation that how they will be distinguished from other people if God’s presence will not be with them? ***“16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.” (Exodus 33:16 KJV)*** The Lord approved to Moses his request. ***“17 And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.” (Exodus 33:17 KJV)*** When God approved to Moses his request, Moses asked God to show him His glory. ***“18 And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.” (Exodus 33:18 KJV)*** The glory of God will be something heavy and it will come down to crush all of what is from the flesh and from the world and of the things that are contradicts to God and to His will. God approved the request of Moses and explained to him that He will make His goodness, and His mercy to be declared to him and to the people with him. ***“19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.” (Exodus 33:19 KJV) (We, through Christ are under the grace and the mercy of God, but we need to repent and renounce our sins, and mend our ways and come back to God so that we can receive all these graces. We are under the mercy of God and our prayers are asking alms from God. But God is our Lord and Master and we cannot question Him but we just appeal and plead with Him.)*** ***20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. 21 And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: 22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: 23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.” (Exodus 33:20-23 KJV)*** In the Old Testament they cannot see the face of God because Jesus was not yet shed His blood on the cross for our sins. God declared here to Moses that He will pass by Moses and will let His glory manifested but Moses will see His back only. Moses pleaded with God not to send them unless His presence to be with him, ***“If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.” (Exodus 33:15 KJV)*** Moses requested God that if His presence will not go with him, not to send them from that place because God’s presence is His grace, His goodness and His mercy. So now God is going to pass by Moses to show him His glory

and with this declaration: *“And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.”* (Exodus 33:19 KJV) God promised to give grace and mercy to whom He chose; to those who will obey Him. He will forgive sins but he will not let the guilty go unpunished. The Lord passed by Moses and declared the following: *“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) God passed by Moses, and showed His glory by declaring His characters:

1. Merciful:

2. Longsuffering: Patient and waiting for us to be changed.

3. Abundant in goodness:

4. Abundant in truth:

5. Forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin: God forgive sins, but,

6. By no means clear the guilty: He let those who sin bears the consequences of their sins.

7. Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation:

Moses when he heard that hastened to bow down and worshipped God, *“And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.”* (Exodus 34:8 KJV)

When Moses sent the twelve spies to explore the land, they came back with a report that discouraged the people; in such doing they were sinning against the Lord. Therefore Moses cried to the Lord and appealed to Him: *“17 And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying, 18 The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.”* (Numbers 14:17-18 KJV) Moses mentioned the same characters that the Lord previously declared Himself to Moses as we explained above: *The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation. We need to bear the consequences of our sins and what we did wrong of the work of our hands. This is the mercy of God so that we will not do the same evil all over again. We need to bear the consequences of what we do wrong so that we can teach our children the right way and warn them from our painful experiences.*

God spoke to Moses to make an ark for Him and in the ark He asked to do a seat for Him and He called it the mercy seat: *“10 And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. 11 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. 12 And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. 13 And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. 14 And*

thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them. 15 The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it. 16 And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee. 17 And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. 18 And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. 20 And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. 21 And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. 22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.” (Exodus 25:10-22 KJV) In the ark of God, that He requested Moses to make, He asked him to make a seat of pure gold that it will be like a chair for God to sit on it, and He called that chair the mercy seat, where God will sit and speak and give His judgment to us and His direction to us. Moses was approaching the mercy seat and he was hearing the voice of God and His direction to him: *“And when Moses was gone into the tabernacle of the congregation to speak with him, then he heard the voice of one speaking unto him from off the mercy seat that was upon the ark of testimony, from between the two cherubims: and he spake unto him.”* (Numbers 7:89 KJV) Look now, you are sitting in the church meeting and you will hear the voice of God and the direction of God in your life and what He needs you to do. In Numbers 7:89 it says about Moses that *he heard the voice of one speaking unto him* as if when Moses first heard it he recognize it, being the voice of God. Then it says about the source of the voice, it is *from off the mercy seat that was upon the ark of testimony, from between the two cherubims: and he spake unto him*, so here Moses as if he searched from where the source of the voice came and found out that is from the mercy seat. Many time we may hear the voice of God and we don't recognize or we may not like it because it something that contradict of what we want or it might be a rebuke for sins or a correction for a mistake.

The voice of God may disturb us, may discomfort us, may shake us. But let us remember that this voice had come from the seat of mercy and is for our benefit and our wellbeing.

My dear and beloved: We in the same way in the New Testament we approach the throne of grace, the mercy seat of God: *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”* (Hebrew 4:16 KJV) God's judgment and His ways, His guidance and His direction to us are the mercy of God in our lives and His grace and His provision. God's voice and direction to us is His mercy to us; God's discipline to us and His doctrine to let us bear the consequences of our sins are the mercy of God to us.

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrew 4:16 KJV) The difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament is the presence of Jesus. Jesus is the grace of God for He paid the price of our sins. In the Old Testament it is called the mercy seat but in the New Testament is the throne of grace; that we can receive in addition to mercy the grace

of God. But the rest is the same. We are required in both to obey God. We are required to repent from our sins. We are required to humble down and show mercy to others so that we can obtain mercy from God our Saviour and Lord. Showing mercy to others is not only in giving to them, but our attitude toward them and how we are seeing them and how we look on them and how we are planning or thinking to treat them determine the mercy that we offer to them.

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 toward God and toward his Word.

Let us commit ourselves to live in holiness, to listen and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit and to do diligently what He is asking us to do. Let us commit ourselves to be in unity and harmony with the church that God had placed us in. Let us commit ourselves to obey the teaching that we received and imparted to our families, friends and relatives. Let us be willing to accept the mercy of God in repenting of our sins and in renouncing all our sinful ways of life and to be willing to accept all the consequences of our sins and wrongdoings.

Let us commit ourselves to get fully involved in the great commission of the Lord.

Lord, I commit my life to be willing to do the principles that I learned from your Word in this message. 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 relative.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had humbled themselves before you, who had repented of their sins and who committed themselves to live and apply the principles from your Word in this message. 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 do not send us forward if your presence will not go before us in the name of Jesus.

Lord fills us once again with the Holy Spirit and makes our lives' testimony attractive to others so that people will believe in you and start to follow you and live according to your Word and your righteousness. Lord use us 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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