

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 23

“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7 KJV)

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 and to ourselves.

“35 And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: 36 And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. 37 And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. 38 And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. 39 And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. 40 And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, 41 Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. 42 And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. 43 And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.” (Luke 18:35-43 KJV)

“35 And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging.” (Luke 18:35 KJV): Our God is a merciful God and He care and love His people. He considers our situations and the hardships and the difficulties that we are passing through. The Lord will continue to show us mercy and to care for us and to uphold us with His grace and mercy. Here the Lord Jesus Christ came near to Jericho in order to care for the people, trying to reach them with His love and to help them. God moves daily in our lives and He moves daily in the world to help us and to help people. His grace is sufficient and he will bless us and His blessing will reach those who need Him and those who had humbled themselves.

Certain times you think and you ask which time God will come and extend mercy to me. Whether soon or late, you need to have faith and hope in God, that He is not forgetting you, and one day, He will come and relieve you.

That blind man sat by the way side, it means that he had accepted his problem and he was in rehabilitation and in occupation to support himself. We need to work out to support ourselves. The blind man did his part and we need to do our part and have mercy on ourselves so we will be receiving mercy from God.

The blind man asked mercy from Jesus to receive his sight and the Lord answered His prayer. *We need to trust Jesus our God and we need to trust the effectiveness of our prayers. How many of you aware and sure that your prayer is effective?*

The blind man asked mercy from Jesus to receive his sight and the Lord answered His prayer after he did His part. *He not only asked for mercy but he did his part in earning his living in the way that God wants him to earn it. Let us observe the characters of the pleading blind man for the mercy of God and let us study the Word of God and learn good lessons to practice them in our lives:*

1. Sat by the way side: The blind man faced the reality of life. *Life might be hard on us, but we need to do our part and struggle to overcome. That is also can be an expression of faith, and the trust in God that He will provide our needs.*

2. Begging: The blind man was willing to do all what he can in order to provide for his needs. *In the same way we need to do all what is lawful in God's site in order to obtain what is due for us. As we will be showing mercy to ourselves, God will grant us His mercy.*

“36 And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.” (Luke 18:36 KJV): When Jesus passed in that place, there should be some noise or fast movement or non ordinary movement around the blind man that made him hear something that attract his attention. When God is moving will be causing some changes and some effects that we will be seeing or hearing. That blind man has strong hearing because he was blind. When God allow something to be taken out from our lives the Lord shall replace it with other things. *When we loss one sense there will be compensation in the other senses, that is how God helps us and that is how God also wants us to accept things happening in our lives and to cooperate with Him to adjust with the circumstances.*

3. Hearing the multitude pass by: He was attentive to the events around him wanting to interact and take the responsibility of what is going on around him. We need to take an active part on the events around us and bring the difference for the glory of God. That blind man was not a cripple but he was a blessing to the society around him through the miracle that Jesus did in his life. *In the same way whatever circumstances we are passing through we still need to be blessings to others; not a burden but blessings to others. You know when I look to people who are troubled, but they greet, they help and they have joy and peace more than me, then I am ashamed of myself.*

4. He asked what it meant: When he heard the voices he asked what was going on. He is curious to get involved in the life of the society of people who were around him. Not only that he was curious, but he was keen to get involved and take parts in the events that are around him.

“37 And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.” (Luke 18:37 KJV): When they told him, Jesus of Nazareth, meant something of no ordinary to him. Manytimes when we hear the name Jesus, as if it is something ordinary, familiar and with less effect, but to that blind man, who was able to see things correctly in His mind, Jesus was something extraordinary. Jesus is God who came to save us. He is God who comes often to help us, to heal us, to solve our problems and to provide for us.

“38 And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.” (Luke 18:38 KJV): When he received the information that Jesus around he acted upon it. He formulated the information in his mind and took it seriously and made the decision that he needed to call on the name of the Lord. That was the opportunity for him, and that was the time that he was waiting for.

5. He cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me: He was not ashamed of the people and what they will say about him. He was frank and honest with God and with men. Prayers and crying to God is the only way for us to receive grace and mercy from God. People may laugh on us, people may intimidate us when we pray but God will show us mercy and grace when we cry out o Him.

Repeatedly he did that. He was not discouraged by the people who tried to silence him, because he was aware that prayers and crying out to God will bring to him good things.

“39 And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.” (Luke 18:39 KJV): We should not be ashamed to be rebuked if we have done or we are doing the right thing. No one can help us but God Himself. People will not help us. Therefore we should not be ashamed to do what God wants us to do. We should not be ashamed or intimidated to pray and fast to God who love us and who answers our prayers.

When King David brought the ark of God to the place that he prepared for Him, he danced before the ark of God, his wife scorned him but he was mindful to do that for God and before God. Let us read this story, **“16 And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. 17 And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. 18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. 19 And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house. 20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! 21 And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD. 22 And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour. 23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.” (2 Samuel 6:16-23 KJV)** David was not ashamed to dance before the ark of God and before God who had mercy on Him. This blind man was shouting and asking help to God, to Jesus, the son of David. He was not ashamed from the people to ask help from Jesus, our God. We in the same way we should not be ashamed to ask God help and mercy and He will care for us and provide for us. But we should do our part and we should also take our rule in life as Jesus wants us to take part in it.

6. He was rebuked but he cried so much the more: He was confident that the Lord would answer his prayers and his petition. He continued to pray and cry to God. David was rebuked and scorned by his wife but he was not intimidated, because he knew what

he was doing is the correct thing. People near to us may rebuke us for things we do right but we should not be ashamed, instead we should continue to do what is right.

“40 And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him.” (Luke 18:40 KJV): That man with what he did, he attracted the attention of Jesus and caused Him to stand to look for his case. That man caused Jesus to stop his journey, and made Jesus called for him and asked him what he need.

Prayer and crying to God is one of the things that we should not forget to do. We will be showing mercy on ourselves when we are persistently crying to God and calling upon Him to resolve our troubles and to reverse our miserable circumstances.

That man did his part to draw near to God, even he was opposed and rebuked by the people who were around him, but he made a way for himself to be near to God. The Word of God says about the blind man, **‘when he was come near,’** We need to draw near to God in all the possible way that we can do. The blind man was able to draw near to Jesus, after he received rebuked of many people who were against him. Opposition is a factor for us to draw near to God. Reflect now of what you pass in your life and see how you can follow the example of this blind man to draw near to Jesus.

Let us notice here the following from **Luke 18:40** **“And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him.”**

- a. Jesus hears us when we cry.
- b. Jesus asked people to help and bring that man to Him. Are you a merciful person who will work with Jesus to bring crippled people near to Jesus? “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7 KJV)
- c. That man was blind but he was able to see clearly what God wanted him to do. The people who rebuked him were with sight but they were not able to see what God is requesting them to do. Are we with sight but we cannot see what God wants us to see and do? Let us examine ourselves and see. Are we the people who cannot see and recognize the people who need the mercy and the help of God?
- d. The same people who rebuked the man, the Lord asked them to go and bring that man to him. I believe that Jesus intentionally asked those people to go and bring that man to Him to teach them a lesson to have mercy and to help those who are in need.
- e. Do you believe that we or other disciples in certain times cannot see and we cannot hear the cry of those who need help and mercy? If that is the situation, then how we expect to receive mercy?
- f. Jesus would asked the blind man of what he need.

It is so amazing that the Lord would ask people what they need. Although He knows but He will ask us to check if we are aware of what we are in need. He asked Solomon, and Solomon asked Him wisdom, and He asked that man who requested Him to receive his sight.

“41 Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.” (Luke 18:41 KJV): Jesus was so impressive with the cry of the man. We can observe the authenticity of that blind person before God. I am not telling here that God will move by our cry, but the importance of honesty and righteousness before God. We need to have clean and honest stand and heart before God and before men. The man expressed to Jesus his need and what he wanted Him to do for him. We need to express to God with honesty what we wanted Him to do for us. We should neither be ashamed from people nor from the Lord.

7. He was a man of faith in expressing to the Lord His need: **“And when he was come near, he asked him, 41 Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.” (Luke 18:40-41 KJV)** Jesus testified to him that his faith had brought salvation to him. **“42 And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.” (Luke 18:42 KJV):** Immediately Jesus answered his prayer and granted His requests. In certain times small request the Lord may delay to grant us, but in other times big need the Lord answer us at once.

8. Jesus commended that man faith, **“And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.” (Luke 18:42 KJV)**

9. He continued to follow Jesus after he received His sight. **“And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.” (Luke 18:43 KJV)** That man after he received the mercy from Jesus he continued to follow Him. The miracle that Jesus did in that man’s life brought praise and glory unto God.

My dear and beloved: Follow the good example of that blind man that the Scriptures gives us and observe the followings:

Have faith and hope in God, that He is not forgetting you, and one day, He will come and relief you.

You need to work out to support yourselves and earn your living. The blind man did his part and you need to do your part and have mercy on yourselves so you will be receiving the mercy from God.

Trust Jesus our God, and you need to trust the effectiveness of your prayers and pleadings unto the Lord.

Prayers and crying to God is the only way for you to receive grace and mercy from God. People may laugh on you, people may intimidate you when you pray, but God will show you mercy and grace when you cry out o Him.

You need to do your part and struggle to overcome your difficult circumstances. That is also can be an expression of faith, and the trust in God that He will provide your needs. You need to do all what is lawful in God’s site in order to obtain what is due for you. As you will be showing mercy to yourselves, God will grant you His mercy as well.

God wants you to accept things happening in your life and to cooperate with Him to adjust with the circumstances.

In whatever circumstances you are passing through you still need to be blessings to others; not a burden but a blessings to others as that blind man was.

People near to you may rebuke you for things you do right but you should not be ashamed but to continue to do what is right. No one can help you but God Himself. People will not help you. Therefore you should not be ashamed to do what God wants you to do, and to continue to do what is right.

You need to draw near to God in all the possible way that you can do. Opposition of people is not a hindrance but is a factor for you to draw near to God. Reflect now of what you pass in your life and see how you can follow the example of that blind man to draw near to Jesus.

Are you a merciful person who will work with Jesus to bring crippled people near to Him?

Do you believe that you or other disciples in certain times cannot see and cannot hear the cry of those who need help and mercy? If that is the situation, then how you expect to receive mercy?

If you are not a merciful person, then repent and be changed.

You need to have clean and honest stand and heart before God and before men. The blind man expressed to Jesus his need and what he wanted Him to do for him. You need to express to God with honesty what you wanted Him to do for you. You should neither be ashamed from people nor from the Lord.

After you receive the mercy of Jesus and His salvation, you need to continue to follow Him on the way.

You need to be faithful to Him after He showed you mercy and relief you.

You need always to glorify God for all His love and mercy on you and for all what you receive from Him.

You need to understand that people through your life would see the mercy of God’s miracles and will praise Him and glorify His name.

It is so important to live a righteous life pleasant to God, so that other people around you would be able to see His mercy in your lives and will start to praise Him.

Let us pray:

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 all our sins to the Lord. Let us renounce our pride, lack of faith, shy feelings, selfishness, and non willingness to help others. Let us renounce our laziness, and non willingness to obey what God wants us to do and work for Him.

Let us commit ourselves to obey the teaching in this message and let us learn to have faith in God, in prayer and in fasting, in crying to God and in doing our part in drawing near to God.

Let us give thanks to God for the mercies that we had received from HIM in saving us, in forgiving our sins, in delivering us from troubles, and in giving us favor and mercy, and doing us miracles 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 that I learned from this message. Lord I commit myself to implement them in my life.

Give now your problem to God. Lord, I cry and I plead to you Lord to have mercy on me and solve for me this problem _____ .

Lord I commit myself that after I received this need of mine, I will continue to follow you and walk in your ways, and to preach your Gospel to my family, my household, friends, relatives, and the people around me, 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, renouncing their sins and are willing to apply the principles that we learn from your Word in this message and to show mercy to ourselves and to others, Lord protects them and provides all their needs. Lord comfort them and assure them that you are with them, answering their cries and prayers, and leading them in their lives; Lord do miracles in their lives and 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 and to show mercy to others.

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 give us the fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, humility, self-control, patience, perseverance, long suffering, faith and faithfulness to go on and serve you in a better way reflecting the character of Jesus in our lives.

Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church and reaching out new people and new places. 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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