

## *Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 25*

*“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.

*“Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.” (Luke 6:36 KJV)*

*B. “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” (James 1:27)*

*Caring for widows, single mothers and orphans is another important method of showing mercy. When we bring the Word of God and his love to those who are widows and orphans we are evangelizing.* In fact, widows and orphans are the concerns of God, and even from the Old Testament, as we can read in *Deuteronomy 26:12* “*When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled.*” The Israelites were responsible before God to care for the widows and the orphans who were around them. Part of the tithes was given to the widows, the fatherless and the strangers; those are the categories who need the mercy of God. In every town there were widows, orphans, strangers, and poor people, the people of God made accountable to look after them. Why widows and singles needed to be cared off? Because they are women, the weaker vessels, and they are in need of strength and support from others.

*Widows and orphans were by no means abandoned by God, therefore they should not be abandoned by us.* The Lord would provide for them as we read in *1 Kings 17:7-16*: “*7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. 8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, 9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. 11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. 12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. 13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. 14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that he LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. 15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. 16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.*” In this passage, it was made very clear that God provided for that widow after she had heard and obeyed the Word of God that Elijah preached to her:

*“And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.” (1 Kings 17:13 KJV)* *Widows and their children, single mothers and their children will be well provided by God when they hear and apply the Word of God that the church is telling them to do.*

Evangelism and making disciples are the method of God to show mercy to the people. *When the people respond to the message of the Word of God and receive Jesus and His Word in their lives they are receiving the mercy of God.*

*What we conclude that the provision of God to the widows and orphans is accompanied by their obedience and their application to the Word of God. I am not telling here not to help widows, women, orphans or those who are in need, but First we need to give them God’s Word, and Second, they need to obey so God will provide for them.* When that widow obeyed Elijah, God’s promise came true in her life, “*For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that he LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.*” (*1 Kings 17:14*) Elijah cannot make the oil and the wheat to continue, and he cannot send rain on the land, but he can and he needs to give the Word of God, and the Lord can do these miracles when the widow obey.

Then, what else Elijah can do? He can pray, he can open his mouth and speak God’s Word and instruct, and he can open his mouth and eat the food that the widow would prepare for him. God sent Elijah to that widow to provide for her. Jesus mentioned that in *Luke 4:24-26* “*24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. 25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; 26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.*” Elijah was not sent to the widows of Israel because they were not willing to hear and apply the Word of God. *So we can conclude that the mercy of God will reach those who are willing to repent from their sins, and who are willing to listen to God’s instruction and the teachings of His Word through God’s church and the men of God.*

*From my experience in the ministry, when those who are underprivileged would be willing to listen to God’s Word, then I don’t find myself need to give them material things, apart from the first stage of giving aid, and in occasional circumstances. But instead they will be capable to give and support themselves and others.*

*There is no replacement for the underprivileged to repent and start to listen to God’s Word and obey; that will make them relocated under the true mercy of God.*

Elijah through his staying with that widow he directed her with God’s Word and through prayer in dealing with the circumstances that she was passing through and had happened in her life. Let us read how Elijah dealt with that woman when her child fell death and how Elijah helped her to bring him back to life. “*17 And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. 18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to*

remembrance, and to slay my son? 19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. 20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? 21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. 22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. 23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. 24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.” (1 Kings 17:17-24 KJV) Elijah gave nothing to that widow but prayer and God’s Word. He prayed and laid himself on her dead son and the boy recovered. But he was receiving from her food and his daily needs. Again I am not saying that we should not give material things, but we should not neglect to give them the Word of God, instruct them to obey, teach them to give to God, and to help them in prayers.

Elijah his presence in the life of that woman, his holiness had convicted that woman to repent and come fully to God in repentance and accepted God’s way of life and finally received her sons back from death to be alive again.

The widow acknowledged and seen again in all the trials that she was passing through not death, neither scarcity nor famine but God is speaking to her His Word through Elijah His man. She acknowledged and confessed that to Elijah when she told him, “Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.” (1 Kings 17:24 KJV) She acknowledged that what he spoke is the true Word of God. Holiness and living for God and obedience to move and do His will even in suffering is the way for God to use our lives to show mercy to others as we comply to do His will. When we live holy life God will do miracles to others through our lives. How God will reach that woman and show her mercy without the willingness of Elijah to go where God wants him to go and to do what God wants him to do and to live in the style that God wanted him to live?.

Evangelism and showing the love and the mercy of God to the widows and orphans and to the rest of the underprivileged categories like the women, the weaker vessels, the sick, the single mother, the single parents, those in prison and the rest, is never without discipleship and emphasizing on holiness. You must know that giving and caring without emphasizing on holiness is neither evangelism nor God’s love nor his mercy.

Evangelism and showing the love and the mercy of God to the widows and orphans and to the rest of the underprivileged categories like women, the weaker vessels, the sick, the single mother, the single parents, those in prison and the rest is never without our willingness to humble down before God, to obey Him, to be whatever He wants to be, to go wherever He wants us to move and to live the style of life that He wants you to live.

You must know that giving and caring without living in holiness is neither effective nor fruitful. Living the Word of God and living the talk are the skills that God would need us to possess and express in our lives.

From 1 Timothy 5, we can learn tips on how to care for widows, and we can apply them on single mothers, single parents, those in prison, the sick, and the rest of those underprivileged.

“3 Honour widows that are widows indeed. 4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. 5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.” (1 Timothy 5:3-5 KJV) The children and the grand children are responsible to care for the widows, and to have mercy on their parents and grandparents, and in return the widows should show dedication to God, putting their trust on Him and living in holiness. Widows who are in need should trust God, obey His Word, living the life of prayers, and be good example to others in the body of Christ in living life of holiness and in service to God.

“6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.” (1 Timothy 5:6 KJV) Widows who live for pleasures are unworthy of any support apart of rebuke. “7 And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless.” (1 Timothy 5:7 KJV) These instructions from the Bible is needed so that everyone would know how to deal with the issue of widows or single mothers and to show mercy to those who are willing to obey but to withhold it from those who are not willing to follow. When people know these decrees of God and do them, they will be blameless before God.

“8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” (1 Timothy 5:8) Children and grandchildren are called to provide for their widows parents and grandparents and that is how they will express their faith and that is what we need to teach them so that the mercy of God will flow, and those who are under privileged As well as the widows are called to be obedient to God’s Word and to live in holiness. “16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.” (1 Timothy 5:16) The church should help and provide for those who has no one.

“9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man. 10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints’ feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.” (1 Timothy 5:9-10) Below the age of 60 they can work and they don’t need to be supported, unless they are sick and their body is unfit for work or they are not finding work.

Above the age of 60, the widow to be supported who has no one, but should show good report, had raised up Godly children, had helped the people, had served the saints, had relieved the afflicted, and had done the good work of God.

These criteria are good to put so that people (widows) would be aware that they will not receive mercy unless they will show mercy to others by living in holiness and in good examples to others to follow.

***“11 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; 12 Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. 13 And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. 14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some are already turned aside after Satan.” (1 Timothy 5:11-15) Younger widows they need to be taught more and guarded more against the temptations of lust and immoralities. They need to be taught to work and to care for their children.***

*About giving them the advice to marry, this will be possible if that is applicable and if their financial and material circumstances allow them to do that.*

*The same criteria we can use and applied to the other categories of those who are under privileged. We need to find out to whom we are called to show mercy and what is the kind of service that we are called to offer.*

***My Dear and Beloved:** The description that we spoke about of how to care and show mercy for the underprivileged people, the orphans, the widows, the single mother, the single parents is meant to help us and to give us clear understanding of how to evangelize and disciple the people that God called us to look after, care and show mercy.*

*This is one of the way to expand our ministry and a method to show God's care, God's love and mercy to those whom God love and is concerned with. This is also pleasant to God, as we are merciful and showing mercy to others. This is also good for us; as we show mercy to those who deserve that, we too will obtain mercy.*

*Adopting the ways of God, living in holiness, and doing His will and living in the style that He ordained will help us to show mercy to others. Elijah, Paul and James would not be able to show mercy to the underprivileged and ministered to them unless they follow the style of life that God asked them to live.*

*To show mercy is by instructing the underprivileged, the widows and the orphans who are ignorant, who does not know the Word of God and the will of God, giving them good counsel, and directing in life with advices.*

*To show mercy is by reproving the underprivileged, widows and orphans for their sins, correcting them, and praying for them.*

*Be diligent to reach out the underprivileged, widow and orphans whom God wants you to reach and to help them and show them mercy. Give them His Word and instructions. Be patience and willing to follow up them and counseling them and directing them in the ways of God. You need also to show mercy whenever you are led by God, because you don't know which time that you need God's mercy.*

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

*Lord thank you for your word that open my mind clearly and make me understand your will and the way to serve you. Lord I commit myself to abide with this word of yours, helps me Lord to persevere in order to apply these principles in the life of the people whom you call me to care and show mercy.*

*Lord I pray for myself to be filled more with love toward those who are underprivileged and those who are in troubles, the sick, the widows, the single mothers, the single parents, and the orphans. Lord I am willing to serve you in this direction.*

*Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had humbled themselves before you to live and apply the principles that we learn from your Word in this message to protect them and to provide 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 and your righteousness. Lord use them to evangelize and to make new disciples of yours.*

*Lord I pray for my brothers and my sisters that everyone of them will be at your expectation to go and care for those categories of people who need your love and your care.*

*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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