

Mighty is Mercy Part 5

Step One: Poor in Spirit- A recognition and acknowledgment of one's spiritual bankruptcy apart from God (and Jesus). See, blessed are those who realize that without the grace of God in their life they are completely bankrupt and incapable of having any affect on their eternal destiny.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 5:3

Step Two: Mourning- The obsession of being connected with God for my total happiness. "Mourning" avidly looking for any independent area in my life, away from God, that is trying to find another means of happiness to satisfy my needs.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."
Matthew 5:4

Step Three: Meek- Meekness is power under control, we are harnessed to the will and character of Christ in the same way as a horse might be bridled to be led .

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."
Matthew 5:5

Step Four: Hunger and Thirst After Righteousness- Righteousness is meekness in action that can only be brought about by a diet of only righteousness. Righteousness is a Christlike person in world changing action.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."
Matthew 5:6

Righteousness is the foundation for a world impact person. **A RIGHTEOUS PERSON IS HUNGRY TO BE CORRECTED AND DIRECTED BY THE WORD OF GOD. A RIGHTEOUS PERSON IS NOT OFFENDED AT THE RESTRICTIVE COMMANDS OF GOD, NOR DOES HE CONTEND WITH THE WORDING OF SCRIPTURE TO DEFINE THE LIBERTY HE HAS AND STILL CAN BE A CHRISTIAN. RIGHTEOUS BELIEVERS FIND LIBERTY IN THE CLOSE DETAILS OF SCRIPTURE BECAUSE THEY WANT TO PLEASE GOD. A RIGHTEOUS PERSON WILL ACT OFTEN IN THE JUSTICE OF GOD WHILE BEING BALLANCED IN THE MERCY OF GOD!**

WHY YOU HAVE TO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS IS BECAUSE TO GET RIGHTEOUSNESS ANY OTHER WAY WILL OFFEND YOU OR WILL FEEL LIKE IT IS FORCED UPON YOU. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS BEING WILLING TO SUBMIT TO GOD'S WORD PASSIONATELY IN YOUR DAILY LIVING. YOU WILL NOT BE "HAPPY" IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WORD, IF YOU DO NOT "HUNGRY AND THIRSTY" FOR IT.

- It appears that the first four Beatitudes focus toward the believer's relationship with God, while the latter four aim primarily toward others.
- "Mercy Seat" in the holy of holies. (Lev 16:2,13-15) (I Samuel 6)

This was the place where the Lord God accepted the propitiatory (satisfactory) sacrifice

to atone for the nation's sins, once each year on the "Day of Atonement" . Here at the mercy seat God was moved with pity and compassion for the sinful people, and took action to reconcile them to himself through accepting the blood of a goat in their stead.

"I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:19-23

Step Five: Merciful- Mercy is the the balance of Righteousness in a world desperately in need of boundaries.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

Matthew 5:7

- **BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL.** (6:14,15; 18:33-35; 2 Samuel 22:26; Job 31:16-22; Psalms 18:25; 37:26; Psalms 41:1-4; 112:4,9; Proverbs 11:17; 14:21; 19:17; Isaiah 57:1; 58:6-12; Daniel 4:27; Micah 6:8; Mark 11:25; Luke 6:35; Ephesians 4:32; 5:1; Colossians 3:12; James 3:17)
- **Blessed (see makarios)** means spiritually prosperous, independent of one's circumstances because it is a state bestowed by God and not a feeling felt. Fortunate, approved of God, happy independent of happenings.
- **Merciful- eleemon {el-eh-ay'-mone} 1655-**
- **"Blessed are the mercy full" (those "full" of mercy)**
 - **Merciful means "full of mercy."** Just as a graceful person is one full of grace, the merciful person is the one who is full of the fountain of mercy, who is full of God.
- **Mercy- eleeo {el-eh-eh'-o} 1653- 1)** to have mercy on; **2)** to help one afflicted or seeking aid; **3)** to help the afflicted, to bring help to the wretched
 - **The basic idea of the Greek word translated merciful is "to give help to the wretched, to relieve the miserable."** The word mercy is used some 250 times in the Old Testament. It appears as the word mercy (96), kindness (38), and lovingkindness. Here the essential thought is that mercy gives attention to those in misery. From this we make the
 - **ILL.- A young lady** who occasionally **walked** through the **park** after work, stopped to have her picture taken by a photographer on this particular day. She was very excited about her **picture being taken**. As she walked out of the park, she looked at the Polaroid picture in total amazement. She turned and headed back to the cameraman. When she got there she stated, "This is not right! This is not right! **You have done me no justice!**"

The photographer looked at the picture and looked at her and stated, "**Miss, you don't need justice, what you need is mercy.**"

Barnes emphasizes that...

Nowhere do we imitate God more than in showing mercy. In nothing does God more delight than in the exercise of mercy, Exodus 34:6; Ezekiel 33:11, 1

Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9. To us, guilty sinners; to us, wretched, dying, and exposed to eternal woe, he has shown his mercy by giving his Son to die for us; by expressing his willingness to pardon and save us; and by sending his Spirit to renew and sanctify the heart. Each day of our life, each hour, and each moment, we partake of his undeserved mercy. All the blessings we enjoy are proofs of his mercy. If we also show mercy to the poor, the wretched, the guilty, it shows that we are like God; we have his spirit, and shall not lose our reward. And we have abundant opportunity to do it. Our world is full of guilt and woe, which we may help to relieve; and every day of our lives we have opportunity by helping the poor and wretched, and by forgiving those who injure us, to show that we are like God. (Matthew 5.) (Bold added)

- **ILL.- A mother once approached Napoleon seeking a pardon for her son.** The emperor replied that the young man had committed a certain offense twice and justice demanded death. "But I don't ask for justice," the mother explained. "I plead for mercy." "But your son does not deserve mercy," Napoleon replied. "Sir," the woman cried, "it would not be mercy if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask for." "Well, then," the emperor said, "I will have mercy." And he spared the woman's son.

Mercy is what God demonstrates to the undeserving sinner and that's us!

"For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people."

Hebrews 2:17

Mercy Follows Righteousness

When Mercy follows righteousness, it becomes intentional, calculated actions that are motivated by the clear commands of God and a heart full of love. It values people the way that God does.

Matthew 5:7 is often misinterpreted as a way to get along with people - be nice to them and they in turn will be nice to you. Showing mercy does not make us believers (it's not the a condition God demands of us before He lets us in the Kingdom). To the contrary, showing mercy demonstrates we are believers in Christ Jesus. Mercy belongs to God and He gives and dispenses it to those in need. In the dispensing process, those individuals show that they are true believers and also receive the wonderful reward of more mercy from God. We can't out give His mercy to us. We give. He bestows more.

- **Sometimes Mercy builds a clinic and other times it builds a hospital. Which is more substantial and lasting?**

Mercy without righteousness is either:

- **Manipulation- What good I can do to get you to do something in response**
- **Manipulated- What good I can do in response to what you can get me to do**
- **Example- John 5: Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda where multitudes waited for the water of healing to stir- That was an act of intentional mercy!**
- **III. A few years ago a couple had asked me to do their wedding. I had asked all the right questions. When I asked how I would announce them at the end of the service**

they gave me the name. A couple of hours before the wedding, I was meeting with the couple and the girl told me that she had changed her mind and would not be taking his name, they were not to be introduced as Mr. And Mrs. But as Mr. so and so, and Ms. so and so. I told them I would not do the wedding. They said I have to, I'm a preacher and I have to marry anybody who wants to get married, that's my job! Fortunately or unfortunately they found someone to marry them.

What Mercy Is Not

- **Mercy is not emotionalism**

It is not just shedding tears.

- **Mercy is not humanitarianism**

(1 Cor 13:3 NIV) If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Mercy goes beyond handing out used clothes to flood victims or food to the needy. It is possible to give your body to be burned (extreme) and not have love.

- Former President **Bill Clinton** (R) speaks about **Richard Branson's** (L) pledge of all profits from **Virgin's** Group's transport businesses, which he estimated to be \$3b, over ten years, to fight global warming, during a press conference at the Clinton Global Initiative, in New York, September 21, 2006. (Chip East/Reuters)



What Mercy Is

- **Righteousness is Meekness in Action But Mercy is Righteousness Commanded by an attitude of love. Examples:**

1. **Jesus And The Tax Collector-** Jesus ate with a tax collector which was a major no-no for the Pharisees to do.

*"As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, **they asked his disciples**, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'** For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

Matthew 9:9-14

- Jesus was quoting Hosea 6:6

*"For I desire **mercy**, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings."*

2. **Jesus Calls Pharisees Hypocrites Because The Lack of Mercy, (Righteous without Mercy)**

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! **You give a tenth** of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have **neglected the more important matters** of the law—**justice, mercy and faithfulness**. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."*

Matthew 23:23

The Pharisees were obnoxious in their commitment to observe religious laws. But their righteousness was nothing but self-righteousness because they had the inability to show mercy and mercy was what the Lord wanted them to demonstrate.

Pharisees hide under the cloak of righteous obedience and excuses the love that God demands in acts of mercy to others. They are indulged in the “love” of God but little moved toward acting in the mercy of God. Mercy is love in action based upon Righteous behavior and boundaries.

3. Woman Caught in Adultery in John 8-

The Pharisees wanted to stone her which was according to the law. But Jesus did just the opposite. **HE DEMONSTRATED MERCY.** Jesus broke His own law to demonstrate mercy. God provided the definition of true mercy so we would know how to demonstrate it.

What About Us?

“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”

Ephesians 2:3-5

- Our life was consumed with the basket of our hurts, wounds and ambitions demanding to be gratified and because of that, we were objects of God's wrath. **But “Grace” came and saved us.**

GRACE	MERCY
God's solution to man's sin	God's solution to man's misery
Covers the sin	Removes the pain
Gives us what we do not deserve	Does not give us what we do deserve
Grace is that unearned favor which saves us.	Mercy is that undeserved favor
Deals with the cause of sin	Deals with the symptoms of sin
Offers pardon for the crime	Offers relief from the punishment
Cures or heals the "disease"	Eliminates the pain of the "disease"
Regarding salvation it says "Heaven"	Regarding salvation it says "No Hell"
Says "I pardon you"	Says "I pity you"

- **Paul Says:**

*"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.**"*

I Timothy 1:15-17

- **Mercy** is love extended toward those that are incapable of resolving the problem in their life. Of course, **a person who believes that there is no problem, is far worse than a person who believes there is no solution.** If you were capable of changing your circumstances, then God would give us a spirit of encouragement and wisdom to do it. But mercy is an attitude to do what God alone can do. God help me not put people into bondage because of the righteousness I believe we are supposed to walk in. People are miserable, they are wretched and need some type of help or assistance.

WHEN DO YOU NEED MERCY?

- **When You Have Endured Much Contempt**

*"Have **mercy** on us, O LORD, have **mercy** on us, for we have endured much contempt."*

Psalm 123:3

- **Contempt-** buwz {booz} 937- Attack that comes from **a) evil; b) prosperity; c) judgment**

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God".

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

- **When You Have Depleted All Recourses**

*"A poor man pleads for **mercy**..."*

Proverbs 18:23

It takes a lot to ask for mercy because you have to humble yourself.

- **A revengeful person will not cry out for mercy**
- **A proud man will not ask for mercy.** They will try to figure out another means of dealing with a difficult and frustrating situation. The unmerciful will get back at others, they will demand their rights and hold people accountable for everything that has ever happened to them.

The merciful are those who allow their hearts to be tender hearted and who feel in the deepest parts of their hearts the pain and the suffering of those who need mercy. They go out of their way and make the effort to help.

Having compassion on the those that are in any way hurting is first part of mercy. Doing something about it, is the second part. Mercy is not simply feeling compassion but it an act to alleviate distress. We as believers must show mercy to all men, we must do this with readiness and gladness, with tenderness, always ready to give and to forgive.

We are not called to perform occasional, isolated and emotional acts of mercy. We need to find a way to become more accountable as a thankful and cheerful habitual messenger of mercy.

"Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

1 Peter 2:10

God shows us mercy, not when we are good, but when we are miserable, helpless, wicked, ungodly, and powerless. He shows His mercy when we are his enemies and we are disobedient, unrighteous, dead in trespasses and sins, foolish, ignorant, suffering, and miserable due to the consequences of our sin.

Mercy Affects A Believer In Five Ways:

1. Mercy Causes A Believer To Forgive

- **Matthew 18:21-35**, in which Peter asked Jesus if **forgiveness "times 7"** was enough.
- Parable of the slave unable to pay the king an "impossible" debt and sought release and forgiveness which was granted out of compassion (Mt 18:26-27, 32).
 - The forgiven slave was in turn unwilling to forgive a lesser debt, throwing the debtor into prison. (Mt 18:28-30)
 - The lord was informed, was angry and handed him to the torturers asking should he not have had mercy even as he had received mercy (Mt 18:33-34).
- **The question we must ask is:**
 - **"Am I bearing a grudge?"**
 - **"Am I holding onto bitterness?"**
 - **"Am I seeking revenge?"**
 - **"Am I holding someone as an "emotional hostage?"** The call of the King is to forgive as those who have been greatly forgiven. Release them from the "sentence of condemnation" or indebtedness toward you.
- **Unjust Servant**

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed."

Matthew 18:32-33

Mercy is extremely important to Jesus Christ and much of the Bible is either directly or indirectly inspired with the mercy and kindness of God. **Mercy is an act of God, or acting like God:**

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses".

Matthew 6: 14-15

Illustration: True Forgiveness Thomas A. Edison was working on a crazy contraption

called a "light bulb" and it took a whole team of men 24 straight hours to put just one together. The story goes that when Edison was finished with one light bulb, he gave it to a young boy helper, who nervously carried it up the stairs. Step by step he cautiously watched his hands, obviously frightened of dropping such a priceless piece of work. You've probably guessed what happened by now; the poor young fellow dropped the bulb at the top of the stairs. It took the entire team of men twenty-four more hours to make another bulb. Finally, tired and ready for a break, Edison was ready to have his bulb carried up the stairs. He gave it to the same young boy who dropped the first one. That's true forgiveness. (James Newton, *Uncommon Friends: Life with Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, Alexis Carrel and Charles Lindbergh*, 1989, p.22.)

2. Mercy Causes A Believer To Have Compassion

"In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead."

Luke 10:30

- **Hands of Robbers:** John 10:10, "Satan has come to kill steal and destroy"
 - **Stripped Him-** Shamed, loss of dignity
 - **Beat Him- Wounded**
 - **Leaving Him Half Dead- Abandoned**

"A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him."

Luke 10:31-33

- Jews and Samaritans despised each other both racially and religiously. The culture gave the Samaritan plenty of reasons to hate this Jewish man and pass him by.
- Some rabbis taught that a Jew was forbidden to help a Gentile woman who was in distress giving birth; because if they succeeded, all they did was to help one more Gentile come into the world. They often thought that Samaritans were worse than other Gentiles were.

- **Modern day Good Samaritan**

A conservative, republican-voting CEO flew from Boston to Atlanta on business. In a dimly lit corner of the rental car lot, three men assaulted him, took his wallet and laptop and left him bleeding and unconscious.

By chance, a pastor of a successful mega-church happened to be nearby but didn't get involved because he couldn't see exactly what had happened and he was going to be late for a ministry conference.

Next a Christian businessman noticed the man lying on the floor. He took a couple of steps closer to get a better look, but allowed fear to keep him from acting. He rushed into his new rental car and drove off.

Last, a PBS listening, liberal Attorney happened by. He saw the CEO lying on the ground. In fact, he recognized the man as a leader in an industry to which he and his clients were opposed. The attorney didn't think twice. With no time to waste, he carried the CEO to his car and rushed him to the local hospital. After a couple of days, the Attorney had to get back to work. Because the CEO had no insurance information on his person, the Attorney left a personal blank check to cover the hospital expenses and his credit card to help the CEO get back home.

Like the Lawyer or "expert in the law" in this passage, you and I test Jesus by the way that we live. We want the best that Jesus has to offer in this life and the next, but we are often unwilling to show mercy to our neighbors. We want heaven, but we don't necessarily want to live the heavenly kind of life here on earth.

The lawyer wanted to justify his actions and limit the scope of those to whom he needed to show mercy.

We would rather justify the way that we live than show mercy to the hurting around us.

Just like in the story, life still leaves people by the side of the road-naked and bleeding.

Two Common Factors of the Three Men:

- 1. They all came to the same place**
- 2. They all saw him**

We have three possible responses:

- 1. Cross to the other side (Priest)**
- 2. Walk over, look, cross to the other side (Temple assistant)**
- 3. See the need, feel deep pity, meet the need (Good Samaritan)**

Think of all the excuses that they could have used:

- "This road is too dangerous for me to stop and help the man."
- "He might be a decoy for an ambush."
- "I've got to get to the temple and perform my service for the Lord."
- "I've got to get home and see my family."
- "Someone really should help that man."
- "If I'm going to serve at the temple I can't get my clothes bloody."
- "I don't know first aid."
- "It's a hopeless case."
- "I'm only one person; the job is too big."
- "I can pray for him."
- "He brought it on himself, he should have never been alone on such a dangerous road."
- "He never asked for help"
 - (David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible)

Grace is the Good Samaritan's action that brought restoration to the man - Grace lifts the beaten man upon his own donkey and carries him to the inn for complete recovery, paying the complete price on the pitiful man's behalf. (Lu 10:30-37)

Mercy is the Good Samaritan stopping to help the Jewish man who had been beaten and stripped by robbers - Mercy stops and stoops toward one who has nothing to offer the giver and has never shown favor to the giver. (Lu 10:30-37)

- **III. When the first missionaries came to Alberta, Canada, they were savagely opposed by a young chief of the Cree Indians named Maskepetoon. But he responded to the gospel and accepted Christ. Shortly afterward, a member of the Blackfoot tribe killed his father. Maskepetoon rode into the village where the murderer lived and demanded that he be brought before him. Confronting the guilty man, he said, "You have killed my father, so now you must be my father. You shall ride my best horse and wear my best clothes." In utter amazement and remorse his enemy exclaimed, "My son, now you have killed me!" He meant, of course, that the hate in his own heart had been completely erased by the forgiveness and kindness of the Indian chief.**

Here are some questions to consider . . .

- What is one of the best excuses you have ever used?
- Which part of the Good Samaritan process comes easiest for you?
- Are there stereotypes that stop you from showing mercy?
- On a scale of 1-10, how much are you paying attention to the feelings of deep pity God gives you for others?
- What needs have you seen around you this week?
- Who would least expect you to do something nice for them?
- Who has God put on your heart recently?
- Who has been reaching out to get closer to you lately?

All of these are simply excuses, Charles Spurgeon once wrote:

"I never knew a man refuse to help the poor who failed to give at least one admirable excuse." - Spurgeon

- **But only one of the three felt for him at all, "...the Samaritan...took pity on him"**
- **Pity/Compassion-** splagchnizomai {splangkhnid'-zom-ahee} 4697- **to be moved as to one's bowels**, hence to be moved with compassion, have compassion (for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity)

The Same Word is Used:

*"When he saw the crowds, he had **compassion** on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."*

Matthew 9:36

- Seeing the problem is not enough...you have to act
- How can I know if I'm acting in mercy? I am acting out on it, not just feeling inward with it.
- If I asked, "Do you care for people?" I believe everyone who calls themselves a Christian would say, "Of course!
- But if I asked, "How did you show Mercy this week?" What would you say?

*"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had **compassion** on them and **healed their sick.**"*

Matthew 14:14

*Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have **compassion** for these 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 stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight." Jesus had **compassion** on them and **touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.**"*

Luke 20:32-34

Look At The Action Of The Samaritan's Compassion:

"He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'"

Luke 10:34-35

1. **Bandaged His Wounds:** Poured on oil and wine
 - These, beaten together, appear to have been used formerly as a common medicine for fresh wounds. Bind up a fresh cut immediately in a soft rag or lint, moistened with pure olive oil, and the parts will heal by what is called the *first intention*, and more speedily than by any other means. (The Adam Clarke Commentary)
 - **The wine to cleanse the wounds, the oil to assuage their smartings.** (Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible)
2. **Put The Man in His Car:** Put him on his own donkey, giving some indication that he may have had more than one.
3. **Took Him To An Inn:** This was the only place of refuge
4. **Paid The Inn Keeper: two pence/denari--**equal to two day's wages of a laborer, and enough for several days' support.

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, **"The one who had mercy on him."**

Jesus told him, **"Go and do likewise."**

Luke 10:36-37

Treating Others With Mercy

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.”

Galatians 6:1

- “Brethren, even if a man is caught (apprehended, taken by surprise, caught red-handed) in any trespass, you who are spiritual (walking in the Spirit Gal 5:16, filled with the Spirit Ep 5:18-20; Col3:16, evidencing fruit of Spirit Gal 5:22-23, mature in the faith 1Co 2:15; Heb 5:13-14), restore (present imperative - “mend” or “repair” mend or make whole or perfect, of setting bones, mending nets) such a one in a spirit of gentleness (see notes on meekness Matthew 5:5); each one looking to yourself (Keeping an eye on like a runner on the goal, emphasizing a continual, diligent attentiveness with the consciousness that no one is immune from falling into sin 1Co 10:12), lest you too be tempted.”

Mercy Affects A Believer In Five Ways:

1. Mercy Causes A Believer To Forgive
2. Mercy Causes A Believer To Have Compassion
3. Mercy Causes A Believer To Give

III. OC- Outreach Center- We are nearing the completion of our Outreach Center. Over the last few months, we have paid cash for the work that has been done there. Over the last few months we have given over **\$65,000** to that project. Not one cent of that has come out of our building fund program and we will never have to. We have been able to pay for things simply because you have been faithful in giving your tithes and offerings. But what is going to happen is that our Outreach Center is an outreach of Mercy. We will give freely and obediently to this community. Right now we are trying to finish up the youth side of the building along with the foyer and restrooms. We probably still have a few thousand dollars to go to see it completed, and we will see it completed because it is God's heart.

“But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds (not a hasty glance but seeing a Christian in need of the necessities of life over a long period) his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

1John 3:17-18

(James 2:15-17, Acts 9:36, Gal 6:10, Heb 13:16)

Mercy does not mean we are to throw our resources to the wind, but to as good stewards use them wisely in meeting the needs of those in distress.

Solomon writes that...

“He who despises his neighbor sins, but happy is he who is gracious to the poor.”

Proverbs 14:21

- [Amplified rendering "He who despises his neighbor sins [against God, his fellowman, and himself], but happy (blessed and fortunate) is he who is kind and merciful to the poor."]

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1. Mercy Causes A Believer To Forgive

2. **Mercy Causes A Believer To Have Compassion**
3. **Mercy Causes A Believer To Give**
4. **Mercy Causes A Believer To Share The Gospel**- Grace, love and Mercy of God
 - **Mercy is found in speaking the gospel of Christ, the good news of forgiveness and mercy, to those who do not know Christ.**

The Psalmist declares,

“Let the redeemed of the LORD say this— those he redeemed from the hand of the foe...”
Psalm 107:2

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

1 Pet 2:9-10

Mercy Affects A Believer In Five Ways:

1. **Mercy Causes A Believer To Forgive**
 2. **Mercy Causes A Believer To Have Compassion**
 3. **Mercy Causes A Believer To Give**
 4. **Mercy Causes A Believer To Share The Gospel**
 5. **Mercy Causes A Believer To Pray**
- We show mercy when we pray for the care and connection of others with God over our own consumption and demands.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you...”

1Peter 1:3-4

- None of us **deserve** to know Christ
- None **deserve** God's forgiveness
- By definition, the only people who receive mercy are those who don't deserve it. If you deserve it, it's not mercy.
- None of us were seeking after God until He caused a hunger in our heart for Him (Romans 3:11).
- Why do we pray?
 - Because we are the recipients of "His great mercy" and the favor of God who, by the cross can approach the heavenly throne of God.
- **Mercy** is giving them a **piece of your heart**, not a **"piece of your mind"** (Our Daily Bread)...

How To Treat People With Mercy

“Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!”

James 2:12-13

“Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.”

Jude 1:22-23

Jesus' command contains His promise...

"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

Luke 6:38

- **III.** There's a legend about a **rabbi** who welcomed a weary traveler into his home for a night of rest. After learning that his guest was almost a hundred years old, the rabbi asked about his religious beliefs. The man replied, "I'm an atheist." Infuriated, the rabbi ordered the man out, saying, "I cannot keep an atheist in my house." Without a word, the elderly man hobbled out into the darkness.

The rabbi was reading the Scriptures when he heard a voice, "Son, why did you throw that old man out?"

"Because he is an atheist, and I cannot endure him overnight!"

The voice replied, "I have endured him for almost a hundred years." The rabbi rushed out, brought the old man back, and treated him with kindness.

Receiving Mercy

This is probably what we are best at. Searching for someone to give us a break, a discount an extension, a warning, a dismissal, a renegotiation, a glitch in the system, and this is all that God is asking us for.

- **FOR THEY SHALL RECEIVE MERCY.** (Hosea 1:6; 2:1,23; Romans 11:30; 1 Corinthians 7:25; 2 Corinthians 4:1; 1 Timothy 1:13,16; 2 Timothy 1:16-18; Hebrews 4:16; 6:10; James 2:13; 1 Peter 2:10)
- **Receive mercy** (1653) *eleeo* from
- **Holman New Testament Commentary** adds that,,,
"Kingdom servants must reflect in their own hearts the heart of the King. That they are part of the Kingdom implies that they are objects of mercy. **They are "others-oriented."** **What we have received in such abundance, we must dispense abundantly.** (Holman New Testament Commentary: Matthew)
- "To show mercy because we have received mercy demonstrates the life of Christ, the work of the Cross in a man' life, and permits God to open up the windows of heaven and pour out blessing upon us. A man whose life is lived by the love of God manifested at the Cross will find his life flooded by the love of God..." (Pentecost, D: Design for Living: Lessons in Holiness from the Sermon on the Mount)

Illustration: Happiness - A fascinating study on the principle of the Golden Rule was

conducted by Bernard Rimland, director of the Institute for Child Behavior Research. Rimland found that "The happiest people are those who help others." Each person involved in the study was asked to list ten people he knew best and to label them as happy or not happy. Then they were to go through the list again and label each one as selfish or unselfish, using the following definition of selfishness: a stable tendency to devote one's time and resources to one's own interests and welfare--an unwillingness to inconvenience one's self for others." (Rimland, 'The Altruism Paradox,' Psychological Reports 51 [1982]: 521) In categorizing the results, Rimland found that all of the people labeled happy were also labeled unselfish. He wrote that those "whose activities are devoted to bringing themselves happiness...are far less likely to be happy than those whose efforts are devoted to making others happy" Rimland concluded: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Ibid, p. 522). Martin & Diedre Bobgan, How To Counsel From Scripture, Moody Press, 1985, p. 123.

John Newton

What it means to live under grace is illustrated by the life of John Newton. Newton was born in London, half a century before the American Revolution, to a mother of superb spiritual qualities and a nondescript father. His mother died when he was six. Five years later he went to sea with his father who was a ship's captain. He became a midshipman and for a time led a wild existence, living in utter disgrace. He rejected the God of his mother, he renounced any need of religion and he lived an irresponsible and sinful life. Eventually he became a slave trader, crossing the ocean several times as captain of slave ship, responsible for terrible human degradation among the captives he had crowded on board. But grace was always a factor in his life. He survived a deadly fever in Africa, and his ship survived a terrible storm which almost killed him.

Finally, dissatisfied with his life, he began reading the writings of Thomas a Kempis. Somehow, the Holy Spirit began stirring inside his soul, awakening him from sin, urging him toward salvation until he finally gave his heart to Christ. He was so thoroughly converted, in fact, that he felt a call from God to enter the ministry. He was eventually ordained in 1781 and accepted a pastorate in Olney, England. You may have heard one of the beautiful songs written by John Newton, "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound. . ."