

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: Spiritual Gifts, Part 10 He Who Shows Mercy Scripture Text: Romans 12:3–8 09/28/2014

Quote: “When I stand before Christ, I do not seek justice, but mercy”

Romans 12:6–8 (NKJV) ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

We have come to the last of the Spiritual Gifts that have been recorded in the Bible. These are not a complete list of Spiritual gifts for the Holy Spirit will provide the gifts needed to accomplish His purposes.

Today the last Spiritual Gift in the series is the gift of Showing Mercy. The Spiritual Gift of Showing Mercy is a Spiritual Ministry Gift. It is a Spiritual Ministry to others.

Mercy is like Love It has to be shown in order to have any value.

Definition: Mercy - *a:* compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one's power; *also:* lenient or compassionate treatment.

Gift of Mercy - is a spiritual endowed compassion for others that requires a reaction of assistance, treatment or relief.

We have netted down our definition to apply to us as sinners saying the mercy is not getting what we deserve.

Our God is a God of abundant mercy.

Psalm 86:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

In Psalms 136 every verse (26) there is written the phrase "For His mercy endures forever"

The song writer wrote "morning by morning new mercies I see"

Lamentations 3:23 (NLT) ²³ Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. For me that is very good news.

We were not deserving of mercy but by the power of Jesus Christ mercy was extended to us. Every day we are in need of His mercy for sin still seeks to haunt us.

Once we have become Christians, mercy does not stop there. We were recipients of Mercy and now we are expected to be a dispenser of mercy when we have the power to do so.

Mercy does not have to only be applied to one who offends us and is deserving of our anger and hatred. But it is appropriate for us to extend mercy to one who is in need of it triggered by compassion.

Example: The gospels record two blind men calling out to Jesus for mercy. (*Matthew 20:29–34*)

Matthew 20:31–32 (NKJV) ³¹ Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" ³² So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

These men did not do anything to offend Jesus but His compassion brought about His mercy and He healed their blindness for He had the power to do so.

We all are to exhibit mercy so how does it become a unique Spiritual gift ministry. It does so when Christ calls someone to a Showing mercy ministry. For example, Mother Teresa had a ministry of mercy. We have heard of "missions of Mercy" where the delivery of food and medicine was taking place.

Everybody is not called to that ministry but everybody who is able to can with a heart of mercy contribute to that ministry.

Example: Places like the Star of Hope. There are people there nearly full time with the gifts of helps, exhortation, giving mercy and other Spiritual Gifts.

Those gifts may not be our primary gifts of ministry but we can still show mercy by contributing.

The same if for those in the ministry of Meals on Wheels. Our compassion may encourage us to show mercy to those in need because we have at least some power to help.

This concept also applies to those that are not Christians.

In the story recorded in *Matthew 9:10–13*. It tells of Jesus being rebuked by the Pharisees for eating with tax collectors and sinners.

Jesus responded to them with these words:

Matthew 9:12–13 (NKJV) ¹² When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: **'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.'** For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

That phrase 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice' from Hos 6:6, means the above all the religious activity and tradition God desires (wants) us to show mercy to others.

I must admit to some of the Pharisees attitude. I struggle with compassion for those that want nothing to do with God and Christ here and abroad. I want to say, "let their god take care of them". Christ did not limit Himself only the Jews or only to believers.

I do believe that I am on solid ground by saying that our first responsibility is to the household of faith.

The Gospels record the story of a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician that kept asking Jesus to cast the demon out of her daughter (*Matthew 15:21–28 and Mark 7:25–30*).

*Matthew 15:22 (NKJV) ²² And behold, a woman ... and cried out to Him, saying, **“Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David!”** My daughter is severely demon-possessed.”*

Romans 1:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

There is an order but there is also room for compassion and mercy to others. I have to modify my thinking. (O how I wish I were perfect). Thanks be to God; He is not through with me yet.

Then there is the story of the Good Samaritan. Luke 10:29–37. I will just read the last two verses for we all know the story.

Luke 10:36–37 (NKJV) ³⁶ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?” ³⁷ And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Last for today is the story in our responsive reading.

James 2:13 (NKJV) ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

But he who shows mercy shall receive mercy.

Matthew 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

This concludes the series on the Spiritual Gifts. Every believer first received the gift of the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. No one is short changed. Then every believer receives a from the Holy Spirit as an agent of Christ and of God.

Some (a few) are called to a Spiritual office by Christ (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist and Pastor/teachers. Every believer is called to a ministry and both groups are equipped with the ability to perform in that office or ministry, though all may not be to the same level, but no gift is less important than another.

We can desire any spiritual gift or even a Spiritual office but it is the Holy Spirit that determines to whom any gift is given.

So like Paul told Timothy

2 Timothy 1:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Where there is mercy there is also grace. We are recipients of grace because of God's mercy and it is because of God's Grace that He gives us Mercy.

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Message Scriptures: **Romans 12:6–8**, *Psalm 86:15*, *Lamentations 3:23*, *Matthew 20:29–34*, *Matthew 20:31–32*, *Matthew 9:10–13*, *Matthew 9:12–13*, *Matthew 15:22*, *Romans 1:16*, *Luke 10:36–37*, *James 2:13*, *Matthew 5:7*, *2 Timothy 1:6–7*.

END

The Virtue of Mercy

By [Greg Laurie](#), Christian Post Contributor

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." - Matthew 5:7
Martin Lloyd Jones said, "We are something before we begin to act as something."

When we as believers see ourselves as we really are, when we have mourned over our condition, when we have walked in meekness before God and have hungered and thirsted for righteousness, then it will produce mercy in us. We will be more merciful, because we recognize how much mercy has been extended to us.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7). In the culture of Jesus' day, mercy was not held in high regard. In fact, the Romans did not care for mercy at all. They saw it as a weakness, not a virtue. One Roman philosopher called mercy "a disease of the soul." The Romans glorified justice and courage and discipline and power. They didn't value mercy in their culture, and we don't value it in ours, either.

Yet Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful. . . ." Mercy is something we do, not just something we feel. It means to help a person in need, to rescue the miserable. Mercy means a sense of pity, plus a desire to relieve the suffering. Simply saying, "I feel your pain" is not mercy. Mercy is meeting the need, not just feeling it. Real mercy is pity plus action.

The more righteous a person is, the more merciful he or she will be. And the more sinful a person is, the harsher and more critical he or she will be. Sometimes we think people who are quick to condemn are very spiritual. But it is actually quite the opposite. When you truly are a spiritual person, when you truly are a godly man or woman, then you will be a merciful person—not a critical or condemning one.

Think Before You Donate

2010 Examples

Not verified

<https://www.truthorfiction.com/think-before-you-donate-claims-about-charities/>

- UNICEF - CEO, receives **\$1,200,000** per year, (plus use of a Royal Royce for his exclusive use where ever he goes, and an expense account that is rumored to be well over \$150,000.) (less than **\$0.14 per dollar of income goes to help**).
<https://www.unicefusa.org/about/faq/ceo-salary-email>
- Marsha J. Evans, President and CEO of the American Red Cross...for her salary for the year ending in 2009 was \$651,957 plus expenses. about **\$0.39 goes to related charity causes**.
- Brian Gallagher, President of the United Way receives a \$375,000 base salary This equates to about **\$0.51 per dollar of income goes to charity causes**.
- World Vision President (Canada) receives \$300,000 base salary, (plus supplied - a home valued in the \$700,000 - \$800,000 dollar value range, A \$55,000 personal expense account for clothing/food, with a \$125,000 business expense account. **Only about \$0.52 of earned income per dollar is available for charity causes.**
- March of Dimes - only a dime of every dollar is given to the needy
Goodwill CEO \$2.3 million per year. Workers paid very little. Zero \$ goes to help anyone
- **Best** - The Salvation Army's Commissioner Todd Bassett receives a salary of only \$13,000 per year (plus housing) for managing this \$2 Billion dollar organization. **Which means about \$0.93** goes to related causes.
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I prefer to give to:

- Houston Food Bank
- Habitat for Humanity?
- Star of Hope Mission
- Mission Fields
- On street corner cuts the middle man