

## 2021.05.02 Sunday Sermon <How to Get Mercy>

### **Psalm 25:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. <sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

### **Exodus 33:19**

<sup>19</sup> And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. **I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.**

What is the meaning of mercy? Mercy is compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm. Today's scripture is a message Lord gave to Moses, because Moses kept asking the Lord to show him Lord's presence. The Lord's responds to Moses by saying He will give mercy to whom He has compassion to. Today we want to look at how do we get mercy and who does the Lord give mercy to.

### **1. Ask for Mercy**



This is a painting of the prodigal son and father - parable from Luke 15.

### **Luke 15:21**

<sup>21</sup> "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

The son comes back to the father and seeks mercy because of his sins. Just as the prodigal son asks for mercy, we too need to ask the Lord for mercy. Similar to the prodigal son, we see the tax collector asking for mercy in Luke 18.

### **Luke 18:13**

<sup>13</sup> "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

Unlike the Pharisees, who thought they were better than others, the tax collector clearly announces that he is a sinner and that he needs Lord's mercy to live. Just as the Lord was with the prodigal son and the tax collector in the Gospel of Luke, may He be with all of us and show us His mercy.

Psalm chapter 123 title is A Song of Ascents. It is another in the series of psalms sung by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem and preparing their hearts to meet the Lord.

### **Psalm 123:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us, for we have endured no end of contempt.

<sup>4</sup> We have endured no end of ridicule from the arrogant, of contempt from the proud.

A mother seeks to see Napoleon because of her son's sins. She asks Napoleon to forgive her son and release him. However, Napoleon tells her that justice needs to be served. Below is further conversation between the mother and Napoleon:

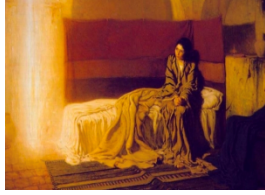
M: " **I don't ask for Justice, I plead for mercy.**"

N: "But your son does not deserve mercy."

M: "**Sir, it would not be mercy if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask for.**"

N: "Well, then, I will have mercy."

## 2. Fear God



The title of this painting is "The Annunciation." It is by Henry Ossawa Tanner and held by Philadelphia Museum of Art. It depicts the biblical scene of the Annunciation where the archangel Gabriel visits Mary to announce that she will give birth to Jesus.

**Luke 1:50**

*His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.*

Just as Mary feared the Lord, she also respected and obeyed the Lord. Thus, she was able to gain mercy of God the Father.

When we look at David's life, we know he sinned many times. Yet, because he feared God, the Lord provided him with mercy. Peter denied Jesus Christ three times. Yet, Jesus Christ comes back to comfort and provide mercy to Peter. Both David and Peter feared God and mercy was provided.

**Psalms 103:13**

*As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;*

**1 Samuel 26:11**

<sup>11</sup> *But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go."*

**1 Samuel 22:18**

<sup>18</sup> *The king then ordered Doeg, "You turn and strike down the priests." So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck them down. That day he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod.*

However, when you look at Saul and Judah, the Lord does not provide mercy. Because they did not fear the Lord nor Jesus Christ. We need to look at ourselves during these challenging times...do we fear the Lord?

## 3. Practice Mercy



When we look at this image, we see hands of an adult holding the hand of young person. Through this image, we can sense the mercy the adult is providing the young person.

**Matthew 5:7**

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

In The Merchant of Venice by Shakespeare, there is a monologue by Portia called "the quality of mercy."

*The quality of mercy is not strained.  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest:  
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.*

The speech is regarded as one of the great speeches in Shakespeare, and it is an example of the esteem Shakespeare held for those who showed mercy. The passage extols the power of mercy which is an attribute of God himself.

<The Benefit of the Soul>

**Proverbs 11:17** *Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves.*

<The People's Compassion>

**Proverbs 21:13** *Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered.*

### <The God's Mercy>

**James 2:13** *Because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

Epaphroditus was an envoy of the Philippians church to assist the Apostle Paul. He showed great mercy to Paul.

#### **Philippians 2:25-26**

<sup>25</sup> *But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.* <sup>26</sup> *For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill.*

#### **Philippians 2:17**

<sup>17</sup> *But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.*

Just as Epaphroditus showed mercy to Paul, we need to practice providing mercy to others.

Bill was a college student with messy hair and clothes. Every day he wore the same jeans, t-shirt with holes, and sandals. Though his appearance maybe untidy, he was a smart student who aced all of his courses. One day he attended a revival held in his school and welcomed Jesus Christ in his heart. He decided to go to a church near his school wearing the same clothes and sandal. When he entered the church, he noticed there were no seats in the back. So he went up to the front of the worship room and sat on the ground, similar to what you would do in college halls when there are no seats left. Everyone looked at Bill in shock. At that moment, an 80-year old man wearing expensive suite with his silver hair walked towards Bill. Everyone thought the older gentleman would ask Bill to get up and find a seat somewhere else. However, unthinkable happened...the older gentleman sat right next to Bill. The pastor stopped his sermon and watched what was happening. He then said, "Brothers and sisters, you may remember today's message for a week or two. However, the sermon you saw today will be remembered forever for the rest of your lives."

#### **In Summary: How to get God's Mercy?**

1. *Ask for Mercy*
2. *Fear God*
3. *Practice Mercy*