

## **NOT DESERVED BUT DESPERATELY NEEDED** **(1 Timothy 1:12-16)**

### **1.The definition of mercy.**

- a.What is mercy?
  - i.It seems like an easy word that we use often.
  - ii.We even played a game growing up called mercy, where you locked hands with someone and worked to twist his hand and wrist until you or him said mercy.
- b.The English word is defined like this: “compassionate or kindly forbearance shown toward an offender, an enemy, or other person in one’s power; compassion, pity, or benevolence”.
  - i.Notice that these traits are extended to someone in your power.
  - ii.In other words, you have the power to do something else towards them but you, instead, extend compassion or forbearance.
- c.One of the Greek words translated mercy means: “kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them”.
  - i.One writer described mercy this way: “It is a feeling for the suffering of others, and having the disposition to relieve this suffering”.
  - ii.It is the giving of what a person needs, not what the person deserves.
- d.God is described as the “Father of mercies” (2 Corinthians 1:3).
- e.He is also described as being rich in mercy (Ephesians 2:4).
  - i.This mercy in which God is rich, or abundant, is a manifestation of His love for mankind.
  - ii.Long ago, Micah said that God delights in mercy (Micah 7:18).
- f.God delights in showing mercy to us and always has.
  - i.In fact, our God would much rather show mercy than punish people, contrary to the beliefs of many.
  - ii.Isaiah 27:4 - “Fury is not in me”.
    - (1)Doesn’t mean that He can’t be angry.
    - (2)It means He does not want to be.
  - iii.God does not want to afflict people with punishment (Lamentations 3:33).
  - iv.Notice how Isaiah describes a manifestation of His anger (Isaiah 28:21 - His strange work).
- g.Jeremiah, though weeping over a destroyed Jerusalem, said that God’s mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23).
  - i.In the midst of a terrible situation, Jeremiah saw the mercy of God.
  - ii.God did not destroy all the Jews for their sins.
  - iii.God left a remnant so that His will would still be accomplished through the Jews.

### **2.The benefits of mercy.**

- a.Mercy, the giving of what one needs and not what one deserves, must have its benefits.
- b.Mercy moves God to offer salvation.
  - i.Psalm 119:41.
  - ii.Acts 13:34 - the word “mercies” means “undefiled from sin, free from wickedness”.

- (1) God had promised a Savior to come through David.
- (2) The sure mercies of David is the salvation that comes through Christ who came into this world through David.
- c. Mercy allows God and man to come together.
  - i. If God had no mercy, He would not have sent His Son Who brings God and us together (Romans 5:10).
  - ii. The Old Testament picture of this is the mercy seat found on top of the Ark (Exodus 25:21-22).
- d. Mercy allows us to have hope (1 Peter 1:3).
- e. Mercy allows us to be saved (Titus 3:5).

### **3. Mercy accepted carries a requirement.**

- a. If you and I accept the mercy given by God, there is something expected of us (Luke 6:36).
- b. In fact, you and I will not receive mercy from God if we fail to be merciful to others (Matthew 5:7).
- c. It is very evident that we need mercy from God.
  - i. The Psalmist cried out for mercy (Psalm 51:1).
  - ii. Without mercy we can't be saved.
- d. If we want to receive mercy, we must be merciful to others.
- e. How do we do that?
- f. Not being in a rush to judge is one way of showing mercy.
  - i. You and I have the right to judge righteously (John 7:24).
  - ii. When we rush to judge the actions of someone before we know all that we can, we are being unmerciful.
  - iii. Oftentimes, we make fools out of ourselves when we rush in and judge someone.
- g. Criticizing with love for the benefit, not destruction of, someone.
  - i. Criticism is needed in life.
  - ii. How it is given though, is oftentimes unmerciful.
  - iii. Is it harsh and cruel or is it constructive, given out of love?
- h. Having compassion for the grieving and hurting.
  - i. Our Lord was moved with compassion at times (Mark 1:41).
  - ii. He saw people in pitiful situations and did what He could about it.
  - iii. When we look at people who are hurting, or in need, and do nothing, we are not merciful.
- i. Imagine if God looked at us the way we look at people?
  - i. Would He still be considered a merciful God?
  - ii. Or, would He be viewed as the God many think He is: a distant God who can't be moved with compassion towards His creation?
- j. Receiving mercy and being merciful will cause us to tell others about the mercy we have received.
  - i. We ought to be evangelistic because of the mercy of God.
  - ii. We've experienced it and should want others to as well.