



Many Gifts But One Body

Showing Mercy with Cheerfulness

Romans 12:6-8, Luke 10:25-37

Introduction

In **Romans 12:6-8** Paul identifies seven Spiritual Gifts that have been given to us according to God's grace and the proportion of our faith.

The Spiritual Gifts are:

1. Prophecy
2. Service
3. Teaching
4. Exhortation
5. Giving
6. Leading

Today we will discover and examine the Spiritual Gift of **Showing Mercy with Cheerfulness**.

Scripture

"According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's faith;
7 if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching;
8 if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence;
showing mercy, with cheerfulness." CSB

Quote of the day

"What hope is there if God should withdraw His Mercy from us? Therefore, extend mercy toward others and help them in their time of need."
— Adapted from St. Vincent

Romans 12:8 Paul identifies the last spiritual gift on his list “**showing mercy with cheerfulness.**”

All throughout Scripture we learn that Mercy is one of the most powerful and essential qualities of God.

As we think about showing mercy with cheerfulness we must understand the meaning of the phrase “**showing Mercy and Cheerfulness.**”

“**Showing Mercy**” comes from the Greek word “**Ele a o**” meaning to be emotionally effected and compelled to help others in their time of need, adversity and affliction.

Examples of “**Showing Mercy**” would be feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, sympathy for the aging, generosity to those in need.

The word translated “**Cheerfulness**” comes from the Greek word “**Hilarotes**” meaning noticeably happy, joyous, optimistic, pleasant, cheery.

What does showing Mercy with Cheerfulness really look like?

It looks like Mother Teresa:

Shane Claiborne, who spent a summer in the slums of Calcutta with Mother Teresa, wrote the following about one of his experiences there:

People often ask me what Mother Teresa was like. Sometimes it's like they wonder if she glowed in the dark or had a halo. She was short, wrinkled, and precious, maybe even a little ornery—like a beautiful, wise old granny. But there is one thing I will never forget—her feet. Her feet were deformed. Each morning in Mass, I would stare at them. I wondered if she had contracted leprosy. But I wasn't going to ask, of course. "Hey Mother, what's wrong with your feet?"

One day a sister said to us, "Have you noticed her feet?" We nodded, curious. She said: "Her feet are deformed because we get just enough donated shoes for everyone, and Mother does not want anyone to get stuck with the worst pair, so she digs through and finds them. And years of doing that have deformed her feet." Years of showing mercy and loving her

neighbor as herself deformed her feet. Citation: Shane Claiborne, *The Irresistible Revolution* (Zondervan, 2006), p.167-168

The Love and Mercy of Mother Teresa for the poor, sick, diseased and afflicted led her to place the needs of others above herself.

The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible itself.

To understand the significance of “**Mercy with Cheerfulness**” we are going to examine **Luke 10:25-37**.

Then an **expert in the law stood up to test him**, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ “What is written in the law?” he asked him. “How do you read it?” ²⁷ He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ “You’ve answered correctly,” he told him. “Do this and you will live.” ²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “**And who is my neighbor?**” ³⁰ Jesus took up the question and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him. When I come back I’ll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.’” ³⁶ “**Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?**” ³⁷ “**The one who showed mercy to him,**” he said. Then Jesus told him, “**Go and do the same.**” CSB

The story of the Good Samaritan is one of the most well known parables in the New Testament.

The parable of the Good Samaritan, clearly articulates what it looks like to love and show mercy to others.

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus, saying— **“Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”**

Jesus responded— **“What is written in the law?” “How do you read it?”**

The expert in the law of God answered

Luke 10:27 He answered, **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself.” CSB**

The Law of God is summed up in two commands:

Love God

Deuteronomy 6:4-6 “Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶ These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. CSB

Love Others— Love your neighbor

Leviticus 19:18 “ Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but **love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.**” CSB

Jesus responded to the expert in the law v.28— “You’ve answered correctly,” he told him. **“Do this and you will live.” CSB**

The expert in the law— wanting to justify himself, asked Jesus— **“And who is my neighbor?”**

The Story

A man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho fell into the hands of robbers

In this parable we learn:

The man refers to anyone— this person is not described by his skin color, his ethnic background, religious preference, his wealth, social status or any other descriptor— He is a man, in the natural rhythm of life, who was on a journey from Jerusalem to Jericho.

The Journey of life is hard— The road between Jerusalem and Jericho was a major thoroughfare for trading caravans, military personnel, and the pilgrims who visited Jerusalem. The distance between Jerusalem and Jericho is approximately 17 miles with a drop in elevation of about 3,300 feet. The terrain was steep, rocky, dangerous and difficult to navigate.

The Journey of life is even more difficult when adversity comes— Life is hard enough without the extra trials, trouble, pain, stress and anxiety. There was a somewhat famous landmark on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho— Ma'ale Adummim — “The Ascent Of The Red” or as some call it “The Bloody Ascent” this location got its name from the red stain on the rocks and the bloody raids by robbers and bandits.

This man, on his way to Jerusalem, fell among robbers who attacked him, stripped him of his clothes, they beat him mercilessly— the phrase “**beat him up**” comes from the greek words:

“**Plege**”— a powerful stroke with a fist or weapon

“**Epi tith emi**”— a verb in the aorist tense which expresses the idea of causing continual pain and suffering without indicating its completion.

The man on his journey was beaten, robbed, stripped of his clothing, bleeding and left to die without any hope that someone would stop to help him.

Three persons encountered the beaten, bloody and desperate man:

The Priest— The priest was a religious man with an assigned position of leadership in the religious community. He was a respected man among his people. He knew the Law in his head, he could recite the law with his mouth, **but he did not practice the Law with his heart.** The Priest looked at the desperate, bleeding and suffering man, ignored him and passed by

on the other side of the road. Jesus does not say why the priest passed by on the other side of the road. Jesus does not say why the priest did not care, or why the priest was not bothered by the man who was suffering—
The priest, unconcerned, passed by on the other side of the road.

The Levite— The Levite was also a religious man and a respected leader in the religious community. The Levites came from the Tribe of Levi. Levites were responsible for priestly duties and leading worship. This Levite would have also known the Law in his head, he could recite the Law with his mouth, but the Levite, just like the priest, did not practice the Law with his heart. The Levite looked at the desperate, bleeding and suffering man, ignored him and passed by on the other side of the road. Jesus does not say why the Levite passed by on the other side of the road. Jesus does not say why the Levite did not care, or why the Levite was not bothered by the man who was suffering. **The Levite, unconcerned, passed by on the other side of the road.**

In this story Jesus is calling out and condemning the religious pretenders. Anyone can be religious, anyone can go to church, anyone can lead others, anyone can teach, anyone can sing, anyone can pray and anyone can give to the church.

However, If a person can observe the suffering and affliction of others, and not have mercy to help them in their time of need— Jesus said that person is cursed and will be tormented in the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:41-43 “Then he will also say to those on the left, **(the goats)** ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels! 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; 43 I was a stranger and you didn’t take me in; I was naked and you didn’t clothe me, sick and in prison and you didn’t take care of me.’ CSB

The Samaritan— The Samaritan is the hero of the story. While the Samaritan was on his journey, traveling this dangerous road, he too saw the desperate, suffering man. The Samaritan showed mercy to the suffering man.

The example of the Good Samaritan teaches us how to love and show mercy to others.

In this story there are four observations about the Good Samaritan that teach us how to love and show mercy to others.

We love and show mercy to others when we:

1. Observe the people in our world
2. Care for the desperate people in our world
3. Share with people in our world
4. Are Generous to people in our world

Loving and showing Mercy to others means:

1. We Observe the people in our world v.33

³³ But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and **when he saw the man**, he had compassion.

The Samaritan “**saw**” the man.

The word translated “**saw**” comes from the Greek word “**Eidon**” meaning to observe, to understand, to witness, to recognize.

In the natural rhythm of our lives, we need to live with our eyes wide open. We should observe the world around us.

We should seek to observe others through the eyes of Jesus— Jesus saw the sick, the suffering, the broken, the rejected and outcast people.

The Samaritan observed the suffering man and had compassion on him— The word translated “**compassion**” comes from the greek word “**splagchnizomai**”— which means to feel sympathy, to be moved inwardly, to feel pity and concern for the suffering and misfortune of others.

We show love and mercy to others when we **observe the suffering and misfortune of others and have mercy on them.**

Loving and showing Mercy to others means:

2. We Care for the desperate people in our world v.34

³⁴ **He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine.**

It is not enough to see the misfortune and suffering of others. Showing Love and Mercy means we go to them, care for and serve them.

Caring and Serving others is rarely convenient, comfortable or carefree.

Caring for and Serving others can interrupt our day, it can interrupt our plans, it can interrupt our schedule, it can interrupt our life.

The Samaritan went to the man— The man was stripped of his clothes, badly beaten, bloody and dying.

The Samaritan bandaged his wounds— tearing his own clothes and using them for bandages

The Samaritan poured on olive oil and wine— to medicate and disinfect the wounds

What does it look like to show mercy? What does it look like to care for serve others?

It looks like Father Damien

Father Damien was a priest who loved and showed mercy to lepers by serving and caring for them. He moved to Kalawao—a village on the island of Molokai, in Hawaii, this island had been quarantined to serve as a leper

colony. For 16 years, he lived in their midst. He learned to speak their language. He bandaged their wounds, embraced the bodies no one else would touch, preached to hearts that would otherwise have been left alone. He organized schools, bands, and choirs. He built homes so that the lepers could have shelter. He built 2,000 coffins by hand so that, when they died, they could be buried with dignity. Slowly, it was said, Kalawao became a place to live rather than a place to die. Father Damien offered hope through his love and mercy for the Lepers.

Father Damien was not cautious about keeping his distance. He did nothing to separate himself from his people. He dipped his fingers in the poi bowl along with the patients. He shared his pipe. He did not always wash his hands after bandaging open sores. He got close. For this, the people loved him.

Then one day he stood up and began his sermon with two words: "We lepers...."

Now, he wasn't just loving and showing lepers mercy, he himself was now a leper. From that day forward, he wasn't just on their island; he was in their skin. First he had chosen to live as they lived; now he would die as they died. Now they were in it together.

One day God came to Earth and began his message: "We lepers...." Now he wasn't just helping us. Now he was one of us. Now he was in our skin. Now we were in it together. Citation: [John Ortberg, God Is Closer Than You Think \(Zondervan, 2005\), p. 103-104](#)

We show love and mercy when we care for the desperate people in our world.

Loving and showing mercy to others means:

3. We Share with people in our world v.34b

He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

The Samaritan, at great risk to himself, shared his time, his possessions and his money to help this desperate man in his time of need.

We show love and mercy to others when we share with them.

Loving and showing mercy to others means:

4. We are Generous to people in our world v.35

The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him. When I come back I'll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.' CSB

Generosity is a significant theme in the Bible.

Generosity is the act of giving valuable resources such as money or time, for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy.

Generosity reflects God's character God in our life.

Jesus said this in **Matthew 5:42**, "Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."

Jesus challenged His followers to live with open hands, to be willing to give what we have to help others in need.

We love our money, however, do we love our money more than God, more than others?

Proverbs 19:17 says, "Kindness to the poor is a loan to the LORD, and He will give a reward to the lender." CSB

The Samaritan was merciful and generous. The Samaritan gave his time, his effort, generosity from his own resources to help the beaten, bloody, dying man.

The Samaritan gave the Inn keeper a blank check by saying— I will be back, and I will pay you for whatever expense you may incur.

The Samaritan comforted the man by promising to take care of him and pay the cost of his healing and recovery.

The Application of the story is found in the concluding question:

At the end of the story Jesus asked the expert in the law— **“Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”**

The expert in the law could not bring himself to say the Samaritan was the hero of the story— He said **“The one who showed mercy to the suffering man,”**

Jesus then replied— **“Go and do likewise.”**— Show mercy to others.

If everyone demonstrated love and mercy to others we would completely eradicate racism, prejudice, discrimination, mistreatment, and disrespect of others from the face of the earth.

We love and show mercy to others when we:

Observe the people in our world

Care for the desperate people in our world

Share with people in our world

Are Generous to people in our world