



## **Many Gifts But One Body**

### **Showing Mercy with Cheerfulness II**

### **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 continue examining 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

“Mercy is never cowardly. Mercy is strength. It takes courage to be merciful in a world like this.” — Sophia Slade

Last week we discovered “**Showing Mercy with Cheerfulness**” means to be emotionally effected and compelled to help others in their time of need, adversity and affliction with a spirit of joy, happiness, optimism and cheer.

To understand the significance of “**Showing Mercy with Cheerfulness**” we began to look at the Parable of the Good Samaritan found in **Luke 10:25-37**.

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

In this parable we learned:

### The man refers to anyone

**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

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, desperate and dying man:

#### The Priest

## The Levite

In this story Jesus calls out and condemns 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 show 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 example of the Good Samaritan teaches us how to love and show mercy to others.**

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

<sup>33</sup> 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, showing mercy to others begins by living 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, have compassion and go to them.**

Loving and showing Mercy to others means:

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

<sup>34</sup> **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, robbed of his belongings, 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 and preached to people that otherwise would 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 the Lepers died, they could be buried with dignity. Slowly, it was said, “Lepers Island” 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 Lepers. 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 became infected with this dread disease and now was 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 what he had to help this desperate man in his time of need.

**Sharing is an attitude that reflects my stuff is actually His stuff. All the stuff I have is a gift from God. Therefore I share my stuff with others as I have opportunity because God shares His stuff with me.**

**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 the 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, we love our stuff, however, do we love our money and our stuff 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 and generosity from his own resources to help the beaten, bloody, and 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 poverty, racism, prejudice, discrimination, mistreatment, and disrespect of others from the face of the earth.**

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**