

# Merciful

#0129

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 22, 1975

“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy”  
Matthew 5:7.

Jesus, the great medical missionary, came from Heaven to earth to reveal God’s mercy to lost men.

“Many feel that it would be a great privilege to visit the scenes of Christ’s life on earth, to walk where He trod, to look upon the lake beside which He loved to teach, and the hills and valleys on which His eyes so often rested”  
*Ministry of Healing*, page 105.

In other words, many think it’s a wonderful thing to visit what’s called the holy land. The next word is “but.”

“But we need not go to Nazareth, to Capernaum, or to Bethany, in order to walk in the steps of Jesus. We shall find His footprints beside the sickbed, in the hovels of poverty, in the crowded alleys of the great cities, and in every place where there are human hearts in need of consolation” *Ibid*.

Blessed are the merciful. That word “blessed” means happy. It means satisfied. It means well-off. And those indeed are happy and content who share with Jesus in the precious work of revealing His mercy, His love, His compassion to others. And so Inspiration tells us we’ve come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work.

Physicians and nurses, certainly, preachers and bible workers, teachers, cooks, housewives, fathers and mothers, gardeners, carpenters, plumbers, everybody, we are all to be interested in helping people that need help. Helping them where they need help, physically, mentally, spiritually. This is revealing the mercy of God.

Jesus has chosen this word carefully. To be merciful means to treat people not as they deserve, but better than they deserve. It means that we do not say when we find a case of need, “Is this person worthy?” but we say, “How can I benefit him?”

Christ taught this in the parable of the Good Samaritan. You remember, as Luke tells the story there in the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of his Gospel, a certain lawyer stood up and said to Jesus, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus said, "Well, you know the commandments". Jesus asked him what he found in the law. And that lawyer, guided by the Holy Spirit, answered his own question. He said the great commandment is to love God with all your heart, and the second, to love your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus said, "You've answered right now, go do it."

"Oh," he said, "but who is my neighbor? I am to love my neighbor as myself." Then Jesus told that story, a true incident, it had happened just shortly before that, about the man that was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, he fell among thieves. They took all he had and left him wounded and dying there by the roadside.

The priest came by, but he didn't stop. The Levite came by, he stopped and looked, but he went on. And then this Samaritan came. He looked. He stopped. He did something.

I was interested in the wording of Luke's story here, of how the lawyer identified this man that Christ had commended because he had stopped and ministered to the man, gave him first aid, brought him to a place where he could get more attention, made provision for his care. The lawyer identified this man as the one that showed mercy on him. That's exactly what he did, didn't he?

He had no obligation legally to stop and minister to that man, but he loved human beings. It was the love of God shining through him, for dear ones, whenever anyone manifests real mercy, he is showing the love of God. This is not natural for human selfishness. So those who manifest mercy show that they are children of the King.

You remember in the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew, Christ pictures the final judgment's decision as hanging on this point of what men have done or failed to do for Jesus in the person of His suffering one.

To the righteous, He says:

"Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in" Matthew 25:34–35.

I needed clothes and you brought them. I was sick and you ministered to Me. And the righteous, surprised, say, "Dear Lord, when were You in need, and when did we minister to You?" And He says:

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me" 25:40.

So blessed indeed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy both here and hereafter. God is in the business of rewarding those who share with others the good things He has shared with them. Not that we earn His favor by our works, nothing

remotely like that, but dear friends, there is a law of cause and effect, there is a law of recompense that those who share with God in distributing, receive the blessing of joy and satisfaction that can come in no other way.

We are to be channels of divine beneficence. "He that watereth," the Scripture says, "shall be watered also himself." Proverbs 11:25. The banks through which the river runs are always green. It is the Dead Sea which has no outlet which has barren shores all around it.

Oh friends, I'm so glad that you and I are called to be representatives, agents, showing forth the mercy and love of God. What do you say?

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" 1 Peter 4:10.

What's a steward? One who is responsible for the care and expenditure of funds, materials, financial or otherwise. One who acts for the owner in using those goods. You and I are not owners. We're stewards. All we possess is the Lord's. Our property, our money, our talents, our training, our ability, all are the gift of His love.

My dear friends, we may squander those assets. We may do like some people do in government circles sometimes, get into a scandalous misappropriation of funds, but this does not relieve us of our responsibility, and sooner or later we will be examined as some politicians have found out. Everything we have, everything we've done must pass under divine scrutiny. The angels keep records that are more accurate than any tape recorder in this world.

Oh, I am so thankful that we need not fear that judgment if we have surrendered our lives fully to Jesus and are looking to Him for His guidance. But let us not think that we deserve His favor because we spend His goods according to His direction. All that we have to give away is what He has given us. Whether it be in money, or material things, or training of others because of educational advantages we've enjoyed, or whatever it is we have to share, we got it from God, directly or indirectly. Didn't we friends?

Well, where does the reward come in? Not of merit. But we share with Jesus the joy that comes.

"I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy" Job 29:12-13.

Isn't that a picture of happiness, contentment? All of us who have shared with others, whether it be in material things, or in other ways, in service, in education, in spiritual ministry, we've all found this is true that as we bless others, we ourselves are blessed.

“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy”  
Matthew 5:7.

Turn to the 41<sup>st</sup> Psalm. Here is another wonderful promise for medical missionaries.

“Blessed...” Psalm 41:1.

Here is that word “blessed” again.

“Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness”  
Psalm 41:1–3.

If you have ever been sick for any length of time, you know what a relief it is at times to have someone come in and make the bed, smooth out the wrinkles. Here God pictures Himself as making the bed of the sick man who previous to his sickness has engaged in service for others, sharing with others in the ministry of love and mercy.

God doesn’t forget anything we do in His name for His sake to His children. And all in this world are His children. A wonderful statement of fact, a wonderful promise is found in Proverbs 14:21, the last part.

“He that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he” Proverbs  
14:21.

What is the way to be happy? Show mercy. Show compassion to the poor, the needy, the sick, the suffering, the discouraged, the sad. Brighten the corner where Jesus lets you come, and remember, the darker the home you visit, the more it needs the light of your loving smile. The sadder the soul is to whom you minister, the more that light of joy is needed.

“He that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he” Proverbs  
14:21.

And don’t forget, that word “mercy” means to treat people not as they deserve, but how? Better than they deserve. We are to share the mercy of God. He is the source of all comfort and consolation and compassion. His name is merciful and gracious (Exodus 34:6). He wants us then to reveal His character to a sick, sad, sinning world.

In the book *Medical Ministry*, I found this very interesting sentence. Ponder it.

“Take away poverty, and we should have no way of understanding the mercy and love of God” *Medical Ministry*, page 243.

Well, with all the welfare programs, there’s still some poverty. Right? And there will be as long as we’re in this world there will be cases of need. Every one of them is an opportunity for you and me to reveal the mercy and love of God. And in revealing it to others we ourselves get a better picture of it, and a better realization of what it’s all about. Right? So thank God, we’re in the business of sharing this wonderful gift that Jesus has given us, the gift of mercy and love.

Now turn back to 1 Peter the fourth chapter. There is something more here that we want to ponder. We will read back to the eighth verse and we will read the word love instead of charity. Many of the translations give it love. This is correct.

“And above all things have fervent charity (love) among yourselves: for charity (love) shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” 1 Peter 4:8–10.

Tell me something. Can you give away anything that you have not received? No. That’s impossible. So before I can give something to somebody, God must give it to me. Right?

Another question, is it possible for me to receive something without giving it? Oh yes. Millions do that. They think that’s the name of the game—to receive without giving. They think that’s where the fun lies, and that is the smart thing to do. But they little realize how they’re cheating themselves. The joy comes in receiving and giving, but Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35. Do you think so?

Which do you spend more time at? Which do you spend more thought on? Which do you cultivate satisfaction in? Do you know my friends, it’s possible for us to so cultivate the natural human selfishness that we’re born with that we know little about the real joy that comes in giving and sharing, and in passing on. But you remember that when Christ took that bread that the little boy gave Him, how much bread was it that the little boy gave Him? Five little loaves or buns.

When Jesus took that, He began to share it with others, and as He did, it what? Multiplied. Haven’t you had that experience? Exactly. It is more blessed to give than to receive. Well, God wants us to cultivate the joy of receiving, but the greater joy, the multiplied joy of giving. Thank God, we can do this.

Now, notice the ninth verse:

“Use hospitality one to another without...” 1 Peter 4:9.

What?

“...grudging” 1 Peter 4:9.

Paul says writing to the Corinthians that in giving it should be not grudgingly or of necessity for God loveth a what? Cheerful giver. Well, I do, too. Don't you? Yes. I would rather somebody would just cross me off their list of gifts than to give grudgingly. I'd rather have one gift from a loving heart that just has to give me something because they love me than a hundred formal gestures. What do you say?

Now God is like that. He says He is. He wants us to cultivate hospitality one to another without grudging. There is a little chapter in Volume 6 of the *Testimonies* on hospitality. It has something in that if you are already acquainted with it, you would almost expect me to read it right now, and if you are not acquainted with it, you may get a little surprise. But really it goes along with what we've had so far.

What is hospitality anyway? Well, there are various ways to be hospitable. Having people home to dinner is a way of hospitality, isn't it? Inviting them in to spend the night or entertaining them in various ways. Now in Volume 6, there's a little chapter on showing hospitality. It starts on page 341. Some of you might like to notice the examples of Bible characters such as Abraham and Lot and others. But on page 344 occurs this significant statement.

“Christ keeps an account...” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6*, page 344.

Did you know Jesus was a bookkeeper? Listen:

"Christ keeps an account of every expense incurred in entertaining for His sake. He supplies all that is necessary for this work" *Ibid.*

Isn't that wonderful? And then on the same page, it says that it is an invention born of selfishness to think that we've got to be paid every time we entertain people. Giving is the greatest joy of life. Whether it is giving clothes, money, a meal, hospitality, friendship, love, instruction, treatments, whatever it is, giving is living. Isn't it?

But now I am coming closer. Look here at 1 Peter again, the eighth verse.

“Above all things have...” 1 Peter 4:8.

Have what?

“...fervent love...” 1 Peter 4:8.

Where?

“...among yourselves: for love shall cover the multitude of sins” 1 Peter 4:8.

I wonder why he says among yourselves? He tells us why, love will cover the multitude of sin.

“I don’t like to be around where people do things that I don’t like.” Well, Peter says, you need a lot of love. Because love will do what? Cover. Cover what? A multitude of sin. What kind of sin? Well sins that need love to cover them.

Do you know what kind that is? Well, it is when people tell lies about me, sometimes worse, tell the truth about me. But love will do what? Love will cover my brethren.

“You mean the ones that talk about me, love will cover them?”

Yes. Love will do that. You know, if you love somebody well enough, strong enough, if you love somebody to the degree that Jesus does, you want to help them no matter what they’ve done.

“But love ye your enemies...” Luke 6:35.

Your what? Your enemies? Some of us have a hard job really loving our friends sometimes.

“But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for He is kind...” Luke 6:35.

Who is He kind to?

“...the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore...” Luke 6:36.

What?

“...merciful...” Luke 6:36.

Right back to our Matthew 5 beatitude. But here He tells us how merciful. How merciful is it?

“...as your Father also is merciful” Luke 6:36.

Be just as merciful to others as Jesus is to you.

“Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” Ephesians 4:32.

You know lately, brothers and sisters and friends, God is impressing on my heart more and more the beauty of loving people. Loving the unthankful, loving

those who mistreat us, loving those who make things hard for us. Really, we can't be merciful unless we run across a case of that kind.

Think it through! If somebody is always doing something nice for me, it's just plain courtesy to say thank you, isn't it? And to think of something nice to do for them. But when I meet somebody who has done nothing for me, or worse, has done something against me, then I have the opportunity to show the mercy of God, and not until then. Correct?

"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful"  
Luke 6:36.

Oh I hope there is somebody that will see clearer than ever before the joy of taking a new step onward and forward in revealing the love and forgiveness of Jesus, putting away every grudge, burning up that account of mistreatment, saying with Jesus, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34.

Did Jesus mean that? Oh yes. And thank God He's going to have some of those very men that murdered Him with Him in the kingdom of God! Isn't He? I want to be one of them. I want to be one that shall bring joy to my Savior's heart all through eternity because of His mercy to me.

But He said in the next verse:

"Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not,  
and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall  
be forgiven" Luke 6:37.

If I want to be forgiven, I must what? Forgive. Not that I could earn forgiveness by forgiving others, not at all. But on the other hand, dear friends, if I refuse to forgive the one that has wronged me, I make it impossible to receive the forgiveness of God in my own heart. I get in the cellar and lock the door and everything is black and dark down there. Oh, why not come out into the sunlight of God's love?

Ah, but somebody says, "You don't know what he did to me!"

No. I don't, but God does. Listen, nobody has even begun to treat you as bad as you have treated Jesus. So:

"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one  
another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you"  
Ephesians 4:32.

Let me tell you something. For some men and women to give this thing up is harder than to give up whiskey, or to give up tobacco, or to give up marijuana or any other drug. For some people, this is just like cutting off their right hand or taking out their right eye, but Jesus says you had better do it. Oh, to give up entirely and forever this idea of holding grudges or keeping account of evil, to put away suspicion, to be forgiving, to be loving.



Ah, somebody says, “Brother Frazee, I see. I wish I could, but I can’t.”

Of course, you can’t! Without Jesus, you can’t. You cannot be merciful without Jesus any more than the moon can shine without the sun. Every ray of light the moon ever cast upon this world at night was reflected light. Correct? And if you and I look at Jesus, we can reflect the light and mercy of His love to those about us.

Whether they treat us good, or whether they don’t. Whether they appreciate it, or whether they don’t. The moon shines whether anybody says thank you or not. It’s looking at the sun. Let’s look at the Son of righteousness. Remember, we are loving men for Christ’s sake. We’re not loving them for PR reasons. We’re not loving them to win friends and influence people, to make a good impression, build a good image.

We love them for Jesus’ sake. We love them because He first loved us, and we reveal our appreciation of His love by loving others in return.

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