

Searching the Scriptures / 55 / Believers Show Mercy To Others / Part 5

As we have studied the nature of God’s mercy in the past few lessons, we have learned that mercy is an attribute of God and is a major ingredient of His salvation program. Today I would like to discuss three additional points about God’s gift of mercy to His people:

- 1. God’s Mercy is Revealed through the Salvation Work of Christ**
- 2. Showing Mercy by Presenting the Gospel**
- 3. God Uses Clay Pots – So He Gets All The Glory**

God’s Mercy is Revealed through the Salvation Work of Christ

The Bible clearly teaches that salvation is totally by God’s sovereign grace, love and mercy; and those three elements – along with everything else associated with salvation – are unearned gifts from God to His people. Thus, we can say that the nature of God’s mercy is revealed to us through the salvation work of the Lord Jesus Christ, according to Psa 85:7, “*Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.*” Only God can give a person eternal life. God must draw the elect to Himself and grant them repentance, spiritual understanding, faith to trust Him, and a capacity to love and obey Him.

Only God can create a new eternal soul, or “heart”, and make a “*new creature*” of a person, as we read in Eze 36:26-27: “*A new heart also will I [God] give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*” We also read this in 2 Cor 5:17, “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*”

In Acts 13:41 God refers this message from Hab 1:5 to those who refuse to acknowledge that He does ALL the work of salvation: “*Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I [God] work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man [Jesus Christ] declare it unto you.*” God also makes it clear in Isa 43:25 that salvation is primarily for His honor and glory – not man’s benefit: “*I, even I [God], am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.*”

Showing Mercy by Presenting the Gospel

God commands all of His saints to “*go ye into all the world*” and to “*shew mercy*” to the lost by being “*ambassadors for Christ*” and proclaiming the “*Gospel of Christ*”. Zec 7:9 says it this way, “*Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother.*” We also read this in 2 Cor 5:20, “*Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.*” God’s “*saints*” (true believers) shall praise and bless the Lord for His grace, love, and mercy upon them and shall tell others about His glorious salvation, as Psa 145:10-12 declares: “*All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.*”

As believers bring the Gospel they are a “sweet savour of Christ” to the people of the world, as stated in 2 Cor 2:15-16: *“For we [believers] are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?”* The Gospel is a two-edged sword that cuts one way to eternal life and the other way to eternal damnation, and God uses it to accomplish His purposes in the lives of those who come in contact with it.

God Uses Clay Pots – So He Gets All The Glory

Why does God use imperfect men to evangelize the world? It is to show His power to save, so that He gets all the honor and glory, as 2 Cor 4:7 states: *“But we have this treasure [Gospel] in earthen vessels [men], that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”*

We believers need to “*shew mercy*” to the spiritually “*oppressed*”, “*hungry*”, “*poor*”, and “*naked*” by proclaiming the Gospel to them. That is the “*fast*” that pleases God, as we read about in Isa 58:6-7 *“Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?”*

If God has shown mercy on you through salvation, are you showing mercy to others by telling them about the miraculous work that Jesus Christ has done for you?