

**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY #32,
PNEUMATOLOGY #10,
Gifts of the Spirit #7,
The Gift of Mercy
Romans 12:8
Grace Community Church
Kingston, Tennessee
Wednesday, September 25, 2019**

1. TEXT: Romans 12:6-8, (6) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; (7) or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; (8) “He who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

2. MERCY DEFINED:

a. The Greek word for MERCY means:

i. To:

1. Have mercy on

2. Help one [who is] afflicted or seeking aid

3. 3) Bring help to the wretched

ii. “Is the outward manifestation of pity; it assumes need on the part of him who receives it, and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it.”¹

iii. “To feel sympathy with the misery of another, and especially sympathy [which is] manifested in [an] act”²

b. MERCY is: SYMPATHY which recognizes a NEED and ACTS in order to MINISTER

c. This is the same word which refers to the MERCY God had upon us whenever He saved us

i. Eph. 2:4-7, (4) But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and raised us up together, and made us sit together

¹ *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, ελεος, p. 742.

² *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, ελεεω, p. 743.

in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (7) that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- d. **OFFICIAL DEFINITION OF MERCY:** “The gift of showing mercy is the Spirit-guided ability to manifest practical, compassionate, cheerful love toward suffering members of the body of Christ.”³

3. CONTRAST THE GIFTS OF HELPS AND MERCY:

a. GIFT OF MERCY

b. GIFT OF HELPS

4. MERCY EXEMPLIFIED:

a. In the life of Jesus:

- i. **Matthew 9:36,** “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”

1. SCATTERED

- a. **SCATTERED** comes from a Greek word that has the basic meaning of being thrown down, *prostrate and utterly helpless*
- b. **SCATTERED** is in the **PASSIVE** Voice which means that the **SUBJECT** was **PASSIVE** in this action
- c. The Greek word which is here translated as **THREW DOWN** is the same word used in **Matthew 27:5**, “Then he **THREW DOWN** the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.”

2. WEARY

- a. **WEARY** comes from a Greek word which refers to *flaying or skinning*
- ii. **Matthew 9:35,** “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”

³ Leslie B. Flynn, *19 Gifts of the Spirit*, p. 133.

- iii. **Matthew 15:22, “And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, ‘Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.’”**
 - iv. **Mark 10:47, “And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have MERCY on me!’”**
 - v. **Luke 17:13, “And they lifted up [their] voices and said, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!’”**
- b. BOOK OF JAMES: James 2:15-16, (15) If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, (16) and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?**
- c. EARLY CHURCH, Acts 2:44-45, (44) Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, (45) and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.**
- d. DORCAS:**
- i. **Acts 9:36, “At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.”**
 - ii. **Acts 9:39, “Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought [him] to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.”**
- e. ONESIPHORUS**
- i. **2 Timothy 4:16, “At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them”**
 - ii. **1 Tm. 1:16-17, (16) The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; (17) but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me.**
- 5. CONTRAST the various ways 5 different spiritual gifts minister to one in need:**
- a. **The spiritual gift of PROPHECY**
 - b. **The spiritual gift of EXHORTATION**
 - c. **The spiritual gift of TEACHING**
 - d. **The spiritual gift of HELPS**

e. The spiritual gift of MERCY will

6. Mercy deeds are not measured in the magnitude of the service performed

a. Mark 9:41, “For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

7. In Romans 12:8, Paul says that someone with the spiritual gift of mercy should always exercise it with a cheerful countenance and disposition

a. Romans 12:8, “ ... he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness”

b. CHEERFULNESS

i. The word CHEERFULNESS is from the Greek word from which our English word HILARIOUS comes

ii. Proverbs 17:22, “A merry heart does good, [like] medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.”

8. ACTUAL EXAMPLES OF THE GIFT OF MERCY:

a. John Wesley

b. Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse

c. During the Italian occupation of Ethiopia