

# FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

## The Mercy of God October 22, 2024 Suzi Armstrong

Mercy is the flow of God's love, the demonstration of His loving-kindness. God's love toward us is merciful. God's mercy is mediated through His covenant to us. We have been given mercy through Jesus Christ. The Blood of Jesus is the visible demonstration of God's great mercy. Mercy covers. Mercy creates an atmosphere. Mercy grows. Mercy speaks. Mercy is not pity. Mercy is birthed in compassion and is demonstrated in love. Mercy is visible and tangible. Mercy ministers – it touches your heart in the most vulnerable of places. There is a fire of mercy that consumes what is not of mercy. In mercy God shakes the heavens and the earth so that what can be shaken is exposed and can be removed.

### 1 Chronicles 21.1-2, 7-8, 13 NIV

<sup>1</sup> **Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.** <sup>2</sup> So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, "Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan. Then report back to me so that I may know how many there are."

<sup>7</sup> **This command was also evil in the sight of God; so he punished Israel.**

<sup>8</sup> Then **David said to God, "I have sinned greatly by doing this.** Now, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. **I have done a very foolish thing."**

<sup>13</sup> David said to God, **"I am in deep distress. Let me fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is very great;** but do not let me fall into human hands."

- Incited – to provoke, seduce, entice, persuade, instigate, set on. David took on Satan's narrative.
- Mercy does not mean no consequences, 70,000 died in Israel because of David's choice.

### Psalm 118.1 KJV

<sup>1</sup> O **give thanks** unto the LORD; for he is good: because **his mercy endureth forever.**

### Psalm 145.8-9 NASB

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is **gracious and merciful; slow to anger** and great in loving-kindness.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all, and **His mercies are over all His works.**

### Isaiah 55.3 NASB

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear and come to Me. **Listen, that you may live;**

And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, **According to the faithful mercies shown to David.**

- God made a covenant of mercy with King David, promising David that he would continually have an heir on the throne of Israel. From Solomon on, each king was an heir of David. The Lord would remind the kings that it was not because of them that they sat on the throne but because of His covenant of mercy with David. This was true with the evil kings as well as the righteous kings.
- 2 Chronicles 20.21, King Hezekiah has the worshippers sing, "Praise the Lord for His mercy endures forever." This is a repeat and a connection with the mercy of God shown to David that Psalm 118 comes from. The armies that stood against Israel were supernaturally defeated that day through the enduring mercy of God.
- God gave mercy to David and Israel when he took the census.

### 1 Peter 1.3 NIV

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! **In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**

## Matthew 25

### The Parable of the Talents:

...A man going on a journey, called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave 5 talents of money, to another 2 talents, and to another 1 talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey...after a long time he returned... The man who received 5 talents...said, "Master, you entrusted me with 5 talents, see, I have gained 5 more." His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" ...the man with 2 talents also came. Master he said, "You entrusted me with 2 talents, see I have gained 2 more." His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant..." Then the man who has received 1 talent came. "Master, I knew that you were a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground..." His master replied, "You wicked lazy servant...take the talent from him and give it to the one who has 10 talents. For everyone who has will be given more..."

- The Lord is saying, *"This is a season of multiplication. Take what I give to you and sow it to be multiplied. For in the season to come there will not be time to gather all that I am providing now. Be wise. Know the times and the seasons. I am pouring out My supply from Heaven to equip you and enlarge you."*
- If we do not flow in the mercies of God and allow the increase of His mercies in our life, this opens the door to hardness in our heart and unrighteous judgments. Then we cannot hear God (Heb 3 & 4, "TODAY, when you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts..."). This hardness leads to anger, unforgiveness and bitterness.
- When our heart is hardened, we are unable to love like God loves. His love flows through mercy.
- Mercy has a fragrance that is sweet, it is the fragrance of God. It is this fragrance that deals a death blow to satan. (2 Cor 2.14-16)
- Mercy does not mean easy.
- Mercy brings a reset.

God is saying, *"Encounter My mercy in a fresh new way. In the fire of My mercy is the power of transformation. The nations are being forged in the fire of My mercy and compassion. This is the hour of My power like never before. The nucleus of My power is My love and mercy. Taste My mercy – it is sweet like honey on your lips. My mercy will lift up what hangs low and is lifeless – and new life will start to flow. In My mercy I will release the blueprints of the future. In My mercy I will fill your mouths with My words to speak to this city and to this nation."*

### PRAYER AND DECLARATION:

In the Name of Jesus, we say to Detroit and to our nation, receive the mercy of God. To households and to businesses, receive the mercy of the Lord. We extend the mercy of God to our land. In mercy is deliverance from death. In mercy is the fresh breath of God. Can these dry bones live? Sovereign Lord, only You know. Then He said to me, "Prophecy" to these dry bones and say to them, "Dry bones hear the word of the Lord!" We prophesy to the dried-up church. We prophesy to dead businesses. We prophesy to families. We prophesy to our elected leaders in the land. This is what the Lord says, "I will make breath enter you and you will come back to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh cover you with skin. I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord".

I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. There was no life. In the mercy of God life flows. Then He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath." This is what the sovereign Lord says, come from the four winds, O breath and breathe into these slain that they may live. No longer captured by death and destruction. No longer broken and discarded. No longer hopeless and in pain. So, I prophesied as He commanded to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant. And breath entered them: they came to life and stood up on their feet. God says, I am going to open up your graves and bring you up from them. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it declares the Lord.