

# FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

## The Mercy of God November 7, 2017 Suzi Armstrong

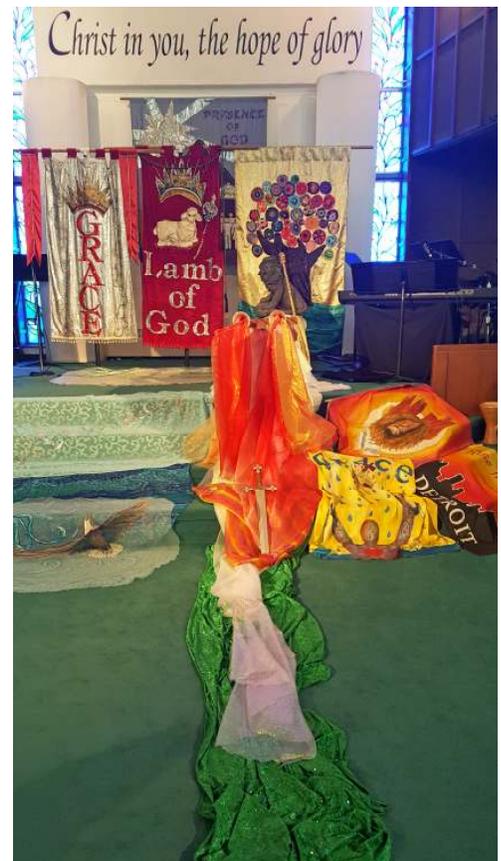
Mercy is a quality that is intrinsic to whom God Himself is. The substance of His being is merciful. Mercy can be phrased as the loving kindness of God. God's mercy is woven into His love. His mercy is inexhaustible. It is in God's mercy that we are able to build relationship with God. God's love toward us is merciful. God's mercy is mediated through His covenant to us. We have been given mercy through Jesus Christ. Mercy covers. Mercy creates an atmosphere. Mercy grows. Mercy speaks.

### 1 Peter 1.3 NIV

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**

- It is through mercy we have been born again into a living hope. Hope that is alive. Hope that is NOW! Hope that flows from the heart of our Father into our hearts.
- It is by the mercy of God that Christ dwells in us, the hope of glory.
- It is through the extension of God's mercy into our hearts that we can look at our city, or our neighborhood, or those around us and see hope. See beyond the natural. This is living hope.
- Mercy enables vision of the impossible to be possible. Because through mercy the impossibilities are removed.
- Living hope comes out of mercy.
- Hope is made sure through the resurrection of Christ. Death was defeated – giving everlasting life to hope.
- Mercy creates the environment for us to grow, to be shaped, to have Christ formed in us.
- It is out of the mercy of our Father that He enables us to be forgiven again and again. If we confess our sins, He is faithful – meaning He stays in a place of extending mercy towards us – and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1Jn 1.9)
- Mercy is NOT an enabler for us to remain entangled in sin or bondage. It is by mercy that freedom is given. It is by mercy that the sentence of death is cancelled.
- It is by mercy that we have been rescued from the domain of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of the Son He loves. (Col 1.13)
  - It is mercy that rescued us.
  - Mercy is like an **"Ambulance"**.
    - A.** Assurance of God's grace
    - M.** Mercies are new every morning
    - B.** Blessings to the overflowing
    - U.** Uproar of His voice
    - L.** Love covers all transgressions
    - A.** Appreciate God's glory
    - N.** No nonsense speaking
    - C.** Courage, unwavering believing
    - E.** Effective strategies, election sure

Christina Wilson



## Hebrews 4.16

Let us then **approach God's throne of grace with confidence**, so that we may **receive mercy and find grace** to help us in our time of need.

- This is an often used scripture, but the emphasis is usually on the grace part and the mercy part is not highlighted.
- God's provision comes through His mercy. He has provided us access into His throne room of grace and says to us, who believe in Him, come boldly into this place and I will provide for you mercy and grace (divine ability) – as much as you need, as often as you need it. There is an inexhaustible supply of His mercy and grace and He tells us where we can get it. We receive mercy and grace in His presence. For His presence fills His throne room. We are filled with His mercy and grace, then we can in turn extend mercy and grace out of our lives, through our words, through our actions.

## Matthew 25

The parable of the Ten Virgins

...who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil... The wise, however, took oil... The cry rang out "Here's the bridegroom! Come out and meet Him." The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out." "No," they replied... The virgins that were ready went in with Him...

- The Lord is saying to us right now, "Be filled with My mercy and grace at all times. Do not let yourself run out. For if you run out you might not be ready when opportunity comes, when I open the door for you to go through. Stay filled and keep filled, for it is through My mercy that I give you vision to see and do."

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 in that 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; to enlarge your territory. I am giving you much and much will be required of you. Do not be afraid for you will not be in short supply if you act in wisdom now."*
- 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. Then we can't hear God (Heb 3 & 4, "TODAY, when you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts..."). This hardness leads to anger, unforgiveness and bitterness. Having a struggle with loving someone or believing the promises of God? Check your mercy tank – go into the throne room of grace and be filled with His mercy, then you can move into that place.
- When our heart is hardened we are unable to love like God loves. His love flows through mercy. We are commanded to love one another. It is by the mercy of God in us that we can do that.
- Mercy has a fragrance that is sweet, it is the fragrance of God. It is this fragrance that is deals a death blow to Satan. (2 Cor 2.14-16)

### Psalm 118.1 KJV

O **give thanks** unto the LORD; for he is good: because **his mercy endureth for ever.**

### Psalm 145.8-9

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is **gracious and merciful;**  
**Slow to anger** and great in lovingkindness.

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

### Isaiah 55.3

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 of 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 connection with the mercy of God shown to David that Psalm 118 comes out of. The armies that stood against Israel were supernaturally defeated that day through the enduring mercy of God.

### Romans 12.1-2

<sup>1</sup>Therefore I urge you, brethren, **by the mercies of God,** to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice,** acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.* <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind,** so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- It is by the mercy of God we enter into and pursue relationship with Him. Going deeper and deeper still through His provision of mercy that we might draw near to Him.
- Through His mercy our minds are renewed, our thinking transformed and we have the mind of Christ.

### James 2.13

For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; **mercy triumphs over judgment.**

- We are partakers of a superior covenant.
- Mercy is superior to judgment.
- Grace is superior to the Law.

Look at Detroit, see this community, and see our nation through the mercies of God. In the place of His living mercy we can hear and speak the effectual word of LIFE into the earth. We declare to Detroit, "The mercy of God covers you and covers the people that live here. There is mercy for you to see and hear that the Lord is good. He has a hope and a plan to bring prosperity to your land and to your household. These are days of strengthening and transformation. By God's great and enduring mercy you are being transformed and made ready to take your place among the nations of the earth. Detroit, you will resound with the sound of the mercy of God. You will send that sound into the nations and the nations will hear. The mercy of God is being multiplied to you in this hour. Receive the increase, receive the expansion, receive the NEW. Be renewed in your image Detroit. You will no longer be called a city devastated but a city transformed with LIFE."

