

Mercy – Part 4

(Teaching given by Tien Nguyen at Kingdom Living Community, Canberra on 26-2-2017)

Mercy people trust God because they see the big picture

Mercy people are people who have come to totally depend on God. They trust Him completely, so they commit their way and their cause to Him. They have become aware that without Him, they are not satisfied and complete.

Mercy people feel there's no need to strive, contest or defend their rights. Because they have experienced and tasted God's faithfulness in their lives, they refrain from anger and forsake wrath when faced with setbacks or opposition and they are not anxious over the wicked who prosper. It is because they know what they let go is only a small part of a larger picture that God has for their life. It is also because they have a powerful weapon which is prayer which is founded in God's truth, love and mercy.

Mercy people pray and stand in the gap.

One of the effects of mercy is prayer. Being merciful is not just simply forgiving the offender and letting go of the offense. It is also about prayer. Prayers will help mercy people to align their feelings with their confession of forgiveness and their demand to be justified because they believe with their whole heart that it is God who will vindicate them in due time. Prayer of this kind will also allow God to bring His love and truth to the offender. Let me explain.

When someone hurts me, I tell God that I forgive this person. Doing so helps me first to lessen or lower, and hopefully eliminate my victim mindset, my anger, and my urge to seek justice. However, often the Holy Spirit would reveal to me during this time, my sin, my sinful nature, what I did out of wrong attitude, selfishness or self indulgence that caused the other person to react to me. This is one way that God can reveal to me my real heart. If that is the case then now I need to confess my sins. After that, I pray that God would forgive both of us. And then, I continue with my prayer for that person to come to the revelation of God, and if he is a believer, I pray that he'd come to a deeper truth.

God has a redemptive purpose for everyone and for every situation. My role is to trust and obey Him in all circumstances. I need to trust Him that He has a great plan for me and even for my offenders and trust Him for the outcome, and obey His command to love everyone and pray for God's love and revelation to come to them. Pray for their blessings as well. That would be amazing! But I've seen God renewed, restored, redeemed lives, relationship, health, finance, job, marriage, etc...

Can all believers be merciful?

- Yes, because God is merciful therefore we can be merciful too.
- And also because we have all tasted God's mercy in our lives. We know that, apart from God's mercy, we are undone and bankrupt because of sin that caused pain and loss in our life. What we now have and who we are now is all because of God. He has provided for us. We can learn to trust God and be merciful.

The more I learn to forgive and let go of my rights to demand justice, the less I see myself as a victim of my circumstances. Mercy transforms me into a different person. I've begun to see things in God's perspective more and more. When we walk in mercy, God reveals what's in His heart to us, and we'll be used as God's instrument to express His love to the world.

Other characteristics of mercy people:

1. Mercy people have a pure heart because they always try to keep a short account with God through confession and repentance. *Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.*
2. Mercy people are meek, gentle, humble, compassionate and kind. They are slow to speak, slow to criticise and slow to anger. They don't talk back nor vindicate or defend themselves. They don't hold grudges, revenge or get even. As a result, they are peacemakers and ministers of reconciliation, reconciling men to God. But when truth needs to be spoken out, they will speak with a right heart – a meek heart – a heart that has truly realised that it can still be subject to sins, errors, imperfections or flaws.
3. Mercy people are strong people and of great courage – characters that are usually misunderstood because they are also gentle, kind, they do not fight back or take revenge. And yet, they are often rejected, mocked, belittled, laughed at, hated and persecuted. They are also often subjected to confrontation, controversy, injustice and tribulation. The enemy seems to love to single out these people, and the world sees them as weak, gullible, lacking courage, very easy to make fun of, easy to control and manipulate. But the truth is the opposite; mercy people are strong because God makes them strong. God gives them faces like flint.
4. Mercy people uphold God's truth because they have experienced that it is His truth that sets them free. And because they submit to His truth, they passionately want His truth to be known. That's why they intercede and pray. That's also why they love to share God's truth with everyone, even with their offenders. They speak His truth with deep conviction, passion and, very importantly, meekness.
5. When mercy people speak truth, especially with the purpose to bring sinners back; they always observe their heart, so that they can take the plank out of their own eye before they attempt to remove the speck out of sinners' eyes.
6. Mercy people cannot and do not tolerate sins. Tolerance is not love because it keeps sinners in perpetual bondage. Love and Mercy will always confront sins, lies and deceptions because Love and Mercy care for Truth. Mercy people want to see sinners set free, just as they have been set free. That is one of their passions. When I shared with you the last time, in the end part, I said: "We find mercy and truth together in Christ. Mercy and truth is Him. Mercy and truth form the gospel", and "Our God is a redeeming God. Whenever we apply mercy, we must also apply truth, and vice versa, because mercy and truth need to go together. The gospel is redeeming, therefore, mercy and truth given in God's love will bring redemption. If we don't have a redeeming answer to the problems of this world, we don't have the answer."

Psalm 25:8-10

Good and upright *is* the LORD;
Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.
The humble He guides in justice,
And the humble He teaches His way.
All the paths of the LORD are *mercy and truth*,
To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. *

7. Mercy people are also teachable and open to reason because they are meek.
8. Mercy people have powerful testimonies of God's goodness and faithfulness because they have seen these exhibited in their life continually.
9. Mercy people partner with God in His governing of the earth because they are meek. "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth".

I believe mercy people have a very special place in God's heart because they don't mind paying the cost to represent Him in this earth, and He also occupies a very special place in their heart. To these people, God is truly their King, Saviour, Teacher, Friend, Partner, Comforter and Counsellor. He is truly 'Everything' to them. They have a very intimate relationship with Him. This is a relationship that cannot be easily comprehend or even explained in plain language. Only those who have gone in can know. They are like the Red Beret soldiers for God. I prophesy that mercy people will have the desires of their heart because they delight themselves in God. Amen.

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