

Sermon Outline

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“GOD’S MERCY FOR EVERYONE!”

Introduction

What is mercy?

“Mercy is a kind, human attitude» (Dictionary).

Mercy and derived word *mercifulness* are the features of God that He demonstrates towards man. **Luke 6:36**

Mercifulness is manifestation of kindness and compassion.

“Every charitable act is a stepping stone towards heaven.” (*Henry Ward Beecher*)

“We all need to sow a crop of **patience, compassion, and love.**” (*E. G. White, Testimonies for the Church, 6T, p.268*)

Manifestation of kindness and compassion to all people is what God is expecting of His Church today.

Bible Passage: **2 Samuel 9:1-13**

In 2 Samuel 9, the word “mercy”, or “kindness” is mentioned on several occasions. (The Russian Bible translation makes use of the word “mercy” rather than “kindness”)

After a glorious victory over the enemies and honoring his commanders, David sought for an opportunity to show mercy and kindness to someone else from the house of Saul. From a servant in the house of Saul, he learned that there was indeed a special man in his kingdom for whom he could show mercy. By the order of King David, a young man who was lame was found. David accepted Mephibosheth--a man with special needs, and immediately accepted him and showed him mercy by granting him unlimited privileges in his house.

Let’s look at the story in a new way and see what analogy we can draw for our time and ministry in the Church.

1. David, who was very occupied with the affairs of his kingdom, asked twice: “Is there yet any to whom I may shew the kindness of God unto him ... Where is he?” **2 Samuel 9:1,3,4**

Principle Truth: We should be constantly interested in the people for whom we can help. Living in a world of materialism and selfishness, we should often ask ourselves the question: “Is there anyone I can show the kindness of God to? Where can I find people who are in such need?”

2. David asked for the disabled Mephibosheth to be brought to the king’s palace immediately. **2 Samuel 9:5,6**

Principle Truth: Our churches and homes must be opened for the needy, and people with special needs.

“The work of gathering in the needy, the oppressed, the suffering, the destitute, is the very work which every church that believes the truth for this time should long since have been doing. We are to show the tender sympathy of the Samaritan in supplying physical necessities, feeding the hungry, bringing the poor that are cast out to our homes ...” (E. G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p.276)

Evaluate: Is your church ready to accept and help people with special needs? Is your church equipped with a ramp for wheelchairs? Are there earphones for the hard-of-hearing, and an interpreter for deaf people? Are you inviting people with special needs, or elderly people to sit on comfortable seats in the church?

3. Mephibosheth was afraid to go before King David. Probably he felt out of place and trembled for his life. But when David saw his fearfulness, he spoke kindly and comforted him with encouraging words (2 Sam. 9:7):

A. Fear not.

B. For I will surely shew thee kindness

C. For Jonathan thy father's sake

All those who visit our churches and worship with us may not look like us. They may have some type of physical or mental problems. There may be some, who probably may be orphans, widows, and elderly people--they must not only hear what is said in church, but also feel by worshipping with us, that kind message of God: «**Fear not**. I am with you. I will help you. I love you. **I will show you kindness**». **By experiencing such kindness in our churches, the person will be greatly blessed spiritually.**

Principle Truth: Church members should always be caring and sympathetic to all special needs visitors and members who attend our churches.

Everything we do in life must be done with kindness and **according to God's will!**

Russian people usually respond to those to whom they have helped by saying: “I did it for God's sake.” This is the right motive for being good: **For the Father's sake. For God's sake.** Furthermore, by being loving to others, a Christian will be rewarded with great happiness. This can be confirmed by everyone who at least once in their life have experienced real love.

After demonstrating such love for Father's sake, there usually will be a response, as in the case of Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 9:8).

4. When Mephibosheth visited the king he received his family heritage, land, and other financial and material goods (2 Sam.9: 9-11).

David showed care for Mephibosheth. He received the heritage of his father, Jonathan. He experienced the care from others including material benefits. And not only he but also his son Micha. Could a disabled person expect such honor and blessings?

Principle Truth: God is great and loves people with special needs. By fellowshiping with us, they can receive the heritage of their Heavenly Father's care and mercy. God is always ready to bless us all!

"Angels of God are watching to see who of His followers will exercise tender pity and sympathy. They are watching to see who of God's people will manifest the love of Jesus" (*E.G. White, Testimonies for the Church, 6T, p.268*).

Think what sacrifice could be made by your church today to do something special for people with special needs?

5. The biggest blessing for Mephibosheth was to hear the words of the King: "...he shall eat at my table" **2 Sam. 9:10, 11, 13.**

Principle Truth: What an advantage! What an honor! To eat at the king's table! Just think about it! How important it is for church members to share and feed needy people. This will bond, comfort and inspire our friends.

"It is God's purpose that the rich and the poor shall be closely bound together by the ties of sympathy and helpfulness. He bids us interest ourselves in every case of suffering and need that shall come to our knowledge." (*E.G. White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p.279*).

"By our churches there is a work to be done of which many have little idea, a work as yet almost untouched. "I was a hungered," Christ says, "and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me; I was in prison, and ye came unto Me." Matthew 25:35, 36. Some think that if they give money to this work, it is all they are required to do; but this is an error. Donations of money cannot take the place of personal ministry. It is right to give our means, and many more should do this; but according to their strength and opportunities, personal service is required of all." (*E. G. White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p.275*)

Jesus sympathizes with all people in their infirmities **Heb. 4:15-16.**

Appeal

May our Church show real mercy and sympathy towards special people who have special though limited opportunities, so that at the end of the earthly history many of those who live near us could be privileged to sit at the table of our Heavenly King Who will enjoy with us His eternal Bread of health, joy and happiness!

God is appealing to us through His prophet and invites: "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD requires of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" **Mic. 6:8**