

“... *God, being rich in mercy...*”

## Having a vision of Mercy Ministries:

*How many of you have been the personal recipients of mercy ministries?*

Each of us has been the recipient of mercy ministries=the action of God in saving us.

Webster defines “mercy” as

- 1 compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one's power; *also* : lenient or compassionate treatment
- 2 a blessing that is an act of divine favor or compassion
- 3 compassionate treatment of those in distress such as works of *mercy* among the poor

When we speak of mercy Ministries we usually think of the needs of people.

However, the primary significance of mercy ministries is the display of God's glory:

It is the display of God's heart of compassion for us through the Cross of Christ.

The need for the activity of God's mercy did not occur until sin entered the world.

But mercy *ministries* has come to us at the greatest price:

The word “mercy” [kapporeth] first occurs in Exodus where it is used about 20 times in reference to the “Mercy Seat”, upon which the blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled for the forgiveness of sin.

In the New Testament, the same word is translated to be *propitiation* and used in reference to the sacrificial death of Jesus upon the Cross to forgive our sin [1 John 1 7].

**Rom. 3:25; Heb. 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10**

As the result of Jesus' death for our sin, God opens the door of His mercy to us.

**Rom 4:25** [Jesus] was delivered up **because of** our transgressions, and was raised **for** our justification.

**Eph. 2:4-7** *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

*NOTICE; the "riches of God's grace [glory]" in verse 7 is the result of His mercy in verse 4.*

*God displays His eternal glory and power through His acts of mercy.*

*[1] to those who are completely undeserving and undesiring so that they will know His saving grace,*

**Rom. 2:4; 3:10-12**

*[2] to His people who are in constant need of His mercy till the Day of Christ.*

**2 Cor. 1:3-5; Phil 1:6; Jude 24-25**

In fact, not acting in mercy is listed as a sin in **Rom. 1:31** *without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful*

*Being unmerciful is the "bottom of the barrel."*

### **Embracing mercy ministries:**

Eph. 2:4 gives God's ***motive and attitude*** in showering us with His mercy=

*...because of His great love...*

Pursuing mercy ministries with the love of God and for the JOY of God, will allow God to be honored and us to be blessed.

God's mercy is Paul's basis for instructing the church at Rome to live for God's glory.

**Rom. 12:1** *I beseech you, therefore [chapters 1-11] brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice to God...*

This is what Jesus had in mind in **Luke 4:18-21**:

Let's remember that God's mercy changed our lives:

*As a result, each of us can and SHOULD embrace mercy Ministries: God's means of embracing others with His love.*

As we do this, God will woo and win them into His Kingdom just as He did for us.

Through our participation in *mercy* ministries, we become God's means of sharing the Gospel **within** and **without** the church.

Acting with mercy is not always giving what is requested.

The Holy Spirit that is to be our Guide, not the needs of others.

He is the only qualified One to make the decisions.

**The recipients of *mercy* ministry:**

There are three groups who are blessed through the ministry of mercy:

1. God Himself=**Matt. 25:34-40**
2. the Body of Christ=**Matt. 5:7**
3. the world=**Rom. 2:4**

**The result of being mercy people:**

**Isaiah 58:6-7** The WORK of mercy

**Isaiah 58:8-12** The RESULT of mercy

There are many opportunities for mercy ministries in LCC and your participation in mercy Ministries is vital

for the display of God's glory  
for our spiritual health,  
for the spiritual health of the church and  
for the saving of the lost.

**What we should do:**

**Isaiah 6:8** "...here I am, send me..."

**We need your:**

Prayers  
Suggestions  
Participation  
Enthusiasm  
Enlisting  
Suggestions