



Lesson 108 Expression of Mercy

Today I was led to curtsy before the King as I entered the Holy of Holies.

10/17/12 CT - Praise and honor are due your King, you are correctly demonstrating your respect and honor. I love you too! You have well pleased Me. Be diligent in your pursuit of truth. Be diligent in your pursuit of your King. Your very pursuit is a demonstration of your desire for Me. Be enamored with Me. Seek to learn all you can of Me. Seek to strengthen our relationship. It is founded in truth, justice, mercy, love and compassion. These strengths are needed share them. Focus your lesson today on mercy and all it's elements.

I think a good place to start our lesson today is with the definition of mercy; and the definition is:

Mercy

- the disposition to be compassionate or forbearing (to refrain or abstain from, to be patient or self-controlled when subject to annoyance or provocation);
- compassion, pity, benevolence (the desire to do good to others, help, goodwill, a charitable gift);
- the discretionary power of a judge to pardon someone or to mitigate punishment, especially to send to prison rather than invoke the death penalty;
- an act of kindness, compassion or favor;
- something that gives evidence of divine favor; blessing

Thus from the definition above we can see that the various elements of mercy include:

compassion, forbearance, benevolence, pardon, kindness, favor and blessing.

I believe all these elements we will be brought into focus today as we proceed through this lesson.

Sodom & Gomorrah

Let's begin by looking at an example of mercy that can be found in the story of Abraham and Lot in **Genesis 18 and 19**. Lot was Abraham's brother. If you recall, Lot and his family, lived in Sodom and Gomorrah. It was an area of great wickedness and depravity but let's back-up a little.

When we open this story Abraham was sitting in his tent in the heat of the day. The tent, I believe, was placed near a tree. The Lord appeared to Abraham by this tree. It happened something like this, as Abraham lifted his eyes (remember he was resting in the tent) he saw three men. The Lord was one of the three. He explained to Abraham that his wife Sarah was going to have a child, a son. He said that Abraham would become *a great and mighty nation, and that all the nations of the earth would be blessed in him*. The Lord said, *For I have known*

him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice. The Lord was going to use Abraham to teach us all the importance of righteousness and justice.

The Lord went on to explain to Abraham that there was a great outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sin. About this time the two men (angels) who were with the Lord left and proceeded towards Sodom but the Lord stayed with Abraham. Because of what the Lord had said at that time, Abraham knew that the Lord was going to destroy these cities. But Abraham asked the Lord if He would destroy it if there were fifty righteous men in the city. Abraham asked the Lord if He was going to destroy the righteous with the wicked. The Lord said He would spare the place if there were fifty righteous men there. Abraham kept bargaining with the Lord going back and forth between the two of them until Abraham had finally gotten it down to the city being spared if just ten righteous people were found there.

Genesis 18:32-33 *Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there? And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten." So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.*

But there were not ten righteous people in Sodom to keep the Lord from destroying it. The two angels, you see, who had left while Abraham and the Lord were talking went to the city.

Receiving

They went there and spoke with Abraham's brother Lot. As these two entered the city the men of Sodom showed just how sinful they were, for they wanted to know these two men "carnally". They had tried to get to the two angels but Lot brought them into his home. The angels met with Lot and warned him.

The angels told Lot to get his sons, his daughters, his son-in-law, everyone he had in the city and leave because the Lord was going to destroy it. Lot then talked with his family, however, some members of his family did not take him seriously. You could say that they did not receive what the Lord had spoken. So the following morning, as the sun came up, Lot, his wife and two of his daughters were the only ones to leave the city, the rest remained there. The bible says:

Genesis 19:16 *And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.*

Surely, the Lord was merciful to Lot, as He had allowed them to escape. Lot was **blessed**. And Lot recognized the Lord's mercy. Lot said,

Genesis 19:19 *"Indeed now, your servant has found **favor** in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life..."*

Obedience

Following their escape, fire and brimstone, began to rain down from the heavens, on Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot and his family had been spared they had made it out.

But that was not the end of their ordeal, for the angels you see, had warned Lot and his family. They said, *“Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.”* They had basically issued two directives from the Lord (leave and don't look back). So you can guess it, as they were fleeing (already clear of the cities) Lot's wife could not control herself. She was disobedient. She looked back. She wanted to see what was happening and it cost her. The cost was her life. She was destroyed. She was turned into a pillar of salt.

Right now you may be thinking, why did He destroy her after He had allowed her to escape. I believe the answer lies in legalities. The answer lies in justice and truth. Lot's wife had just lived through a demonstration of the Lord's awesome power. She had witnessed, seen with her own eyes, the arrival of the two angels. She heard their warning of destruction before the destruction had actually happened. And then as she was escaping (I'm sure she could hear the destruction, she could probably even smell the destruction.) as she was escaping, as she was living through this very powerful demonstration that the Lord had just given, she looked back. She was disobedient.

Ultimately, Lot experienced God's mercy because he was obedient. If Lot had disobeyed as his wife had, he would have been destroyed as well. Can you see the truth and justice in this? The Lord is righteous. He had laid down the rules for them ahead of time. Leave the city and don't look back. Lot's wife chose to look back. Therefore, the Lord was legally correct in His response to her.

Maybe this story from today can help you understand this a little better. Before I became a housewife I worked for 35 years in hospitals. Over those 35 years I have had many bosses, however, the boss that produced the best results from her employees was the boss who treated everyone the same. You could say that she was righteous in her decision-making. She laid out a specific set of rules and everyone had to follow them. There were no exceptions. There were no excuses. These were the rules and we all had to follow them equally.

Other bosses who did not have this same mindset had problems with their employees. There was no consistency in judgment or consequences. Their examples of prejudices and favoritism led to many problems, injustice even. It was an ineffective way to manage a department that led to lies and deception.

The Lord is not like this. The Lord is righteous. He has laid out the path before you. It is up to each one of us to choose to be obedient. It is up to each one of us to choose to believe Him as He has taught us or like Lot's children we can decide to not take Him at His word. But be cautioned, the Lord is not inconsistent, we are all living under the same rules. There is no prejudice or favoritism with the Lord. There is no injustice or wickedness.

Acts 10:34...*“in truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.”*

Consequently it is very important to understand that the Lord has explained exactly what He expects from each one of us. He has given us direction just as He gave direction to Lot's family.

Separated Out

From this story we also learned that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were sexually immoral people who lived as they wanted to. In other words they were “worldly” people. The Lord has warned us of these type of people. We are to separate ourselves out from them.

Exodus 34:10-12 *And He said, “Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you. Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst.*

Ezra 10:11 *“Now therefore, make confessions to the LORD God of your fathers, and do His will; separate yourselves from the peoples of the land, and from the pagan wives.”*

Deuteronomy 7:3-4 *“Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.*

Did you catch that, could this have been part of the reason for His destruction of these cities, to keep His children from becoming ensnared, to keep them protected? Maybe, this from THH (<http://www.takehisheart.com/pdf/theenemyvoice.pdf>) can shed some light on this:

Years ago the Lord gave *Take His Heart Ministries* the following word. It was corrective yet so enlightening. I was shown a particular person and the Word of the LORD came saying, "Tell them (all) they have not discerned the voice of the enemy. You have learned MY voice, some better than others. This is well and good, but you have not learned to discern the voice of the enemy. Know he is more subtle than any. I have spoken through all of you, in some way, that you might know that I am GOD. You do not understand, 'My sheep hear MY voice.' A Shepard has to gather the strays. Today I am gathering.

"I have called you and prepared a very large table before you. Will you eat of it? Is this smorgasbord and you eat only to your liking? I charge you to take of everything I have served, lest you fall into condemnation.

"I am looking for a people who will follow ME; who will separate themselves unto ME. I am looking for a people who have faith in MY ways and what I have said to them. It is a much greater faith than your doing things your way and calling on ME to rescue you! I am alive, yet most put more stock in tainted words than direct words from ME.

Moses was humble before ME and moved on direct words from ME. MY disciples moved on direct words from ME. I am moving in the earth to bring forth MY Bride; so shall it be!

"I speak plainly to you, not in parables. I set a standard for all to see. Did you look? Have I not told you that what you do is directly related to what happens to your children? Did I not reveal this to others before you were born? It's not about love; it's about open doors to the enemy! Have I not said, 'Get real.' MY word is real and is already set in the universe; what I have said to you is set in the universe, walk in it.

I hear cries of, 'I don't see; I don't understand; I can't find my place.' I have heard you like I heard the Children of Israel. I am sending deliverance and MY grace is in this place. There can be no grace until there is judgement. Will you receive MY grace?" (To receive His grace, we must act on His revealed judgments!)

With these words the Lord has spoken not only of separating ourselves out unto Him but He has also spoken of obedience and of receiving what He has spoken just as we discussed previously in regards to those members of Lot's family who did not take the Lord's warning seriously? You remember those in Lot's family who did not believe that the Lord would actually do this. The bible says this about them:

Genesis 19:14*But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.*

Yet they were destroyed in the city as well. They were destroyed because they did not take the Lord and His warnings seriously.

The Ultimate Expression of Mercy

This reminds me of those people today who do not take the Lord's warnings seriously either. They believe the Lord loves everyone. They cannot believe that a good Hindu, a good Muslim, just a good person in general, will not get to go to heaven simply because they don't believe in Jesus. I likewise believe that the Lord loves everyone but where I differ from them is in this: I believe we must believe what the Lord has said. And He has said very clearly that His Son is the only way. Yes, being good is important but it will not bring you salvation. The bible teaches us that there are consequences for actions. Just because the Lord loves us does not mean we do not have to obey. Sin is sin period. There is no denying it. Unfortunately, we humans seem to sin quite a lot. This is why the Lord sent His Son who is the ultimate expression of His mercy (the discretionary power of a judge to pardon someone or to mitigate punishment).

Romans 3:21-26 *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

John 3:14-18 *"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

The way has been made clear. Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's mercy. It is the Lord who has the right to pardon or mitigate our punishment as He sees fit. His **compassion, forbearance, benevolence, pardon, kindness, favor and blessing** are all revealed in the life of His Son.

Summation

As we proceed forth let us remember that God calls for us to be a holy people, set apart, not influenced by the world we live in. He is calling us out of the same wickedness and depravity that corrupted Sodom and Gomorrah. He is calling us to be His own. Remember just recently He said this:

10/09/12 CT – Evidence of things hoped for, evidence of things unseen, yet I AM real, I AM alive, I AM with you. You need no evidence because you believe, you feel, you have a relationship with your Lord. Continue to grow in Me. Continue in intimacy with Me. Continue walking hand in hand with your God Jesus. Live in the midst of the world without becoming a part of the world. This is your challenge!

From these words the Lord is acknowledging our belief. Unlike those fallen members of Lot's family we are receiving that which He gives. We have come to understand that the Lord is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. We acknowledge His presence in our lives today. And we accept His challenge to **Live in the midst of the world without becoming a part of the world.** His challenge in fact reminds me of this verse:

Romans 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

The bible says that Abraham went out early on the morning that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. He looked towards the cities and He saw, *the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.* The destruction of these was complete. From this story it may appear to some that the Lord's mercy was absent. But I believe His mercy was ever present. He rescued His faithful. He made a way for them, just as He has made a way for us, through the ultimate expression of this very same mercy, which is Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 2:4-10 *But God, who is rich in **mercy**, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God**, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

The Lord does not waver from the truth. He is not prejudice. He offers His mercy to all but we must receive and obey that which He gives. This week the Lord encouraged us to:

Be diligent in your pursuit of truth. Be diligent in your pursuit of your King. Your very pursuit is a demonstration of your desire for Me. Be enamored with Me. Seek to learn all you can of Me. Seek to strengthen our relationship. It is founded in truth, justice, mercy, love and compassion. These strengths are needed share them.

And He also had this to say about His mercy:

10/16/12 MVA -**Very good. Agenda of your God Jesus on stage. All who seek will find. I AM a good God. A God of justice and mercy. All who turn and seek your God Jesus will find life more abundant. I AM fulfilling promise. Promise of your God Jesus. Direction and guidance followed leads to this**

promise. The promise of your God Jesus. Always hope. Be steadfast in your God Jesus. Trust and do not doubt. Doubt opens doors wrong doors. Trust only. Believe in the promise of your God Jesus. I Love you. Be steadfast.

10/16/12 DP - Blessings are coming to those on the mountain top who walk faithfully, Spread truth in love. I AM in the silence, seek Me, there you will find Me. Follow Me closely. My will brought about by Me, this you will do. Many are needing, lend a helping hand, see the need and fulfill. Share My truth in all situations. This is love, set free the captives, light shining in darkness. Many to be touched by My hand of mercy.

You can see the similarities in these messages can you not. The Lord's path has been placed before us. It is a path of life abundant. It is a path of promise. It is a path of mercy. Christ our Lord is this path. We, however, must receive that which has been given. We must receive and obey. But His mercy does not stop here; for He has said that **Many will be touched by His hand of mercy**. We, likewise, are to extend that same mercy; that same compassion, pardon, help, kindness, blessings, all the elements of mercy. These we are to share, **following closely** the example of His **helping hand**.

May the Lord Bless and Keep you,
Cindy

<http://www.takehisheart.com>