

## The Wonder of Unfailing Mercy

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**Matthew 23:23-24** *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.*

We find Jesus is addressing the Pharisees who are perceive that they now sit in the seat of Moses to enforce the Law of God. They pass judgments on the people but in their hearts put on a show of hypocrisy. They prided themselves in keeping the rituals of the law and even many of the precepts but they had failed to embrace the principles upon which all the laws of God were founded. They failed to understand the essence of the nature and intents of Father's heart. They practiced the law but had not the Spirit. They knew not the justice and mercy and had therefore no real faith.

It is easy as Christians to practice the Christian rudiments and not have Godly judgment, compassionate mercy, and obedient faith operating in our Christianity. Notice that Jesus was not getting onto them for keeping the law but for missing something much more important than keeping the practices of the law. Jesus was saying you cleanse the outside but the inside is ugly; you strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. You chock on ones appearance, yet love not your neighbor. You buy your videos at Block Buster yet frown at the rash they promote. You despise oppression of women and children yet buy the clothing of sweatshops. You scowl at Broke Back Mountain yet watch a little insinuated fornication in a lighter love film. Is this the judgment of God?

**Jeremiah 31:25-34** *For I have satiated (fill) the weary soul, and I have replenished (restored) every sorrowful soul. Upon this I awaked, and beheld; and my sleep was sweet unto me. Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and with the seed of beast. And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD. In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge. But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge. Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know (intimate understanding) me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

**Psalms:89:1-6** *I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens. I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.*

And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O LORD: thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints. For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the LORD?

**Psalms:89:14-33** *Justice (righteousness) and judgment (discernment and ruling) are the habitation of thy throne: mercy (undeserved compassion and kindness) and truth (the property of being in accord with what is, has been, and will be) shall go before thy face. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. For thou art the glory of their strength: and in thy favour our horn shall be exalted. For the LORD is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king. Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people. I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him: With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him. And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him. But my faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted. I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers. He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation. Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments;*

*Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. **Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.***

**Psalms 107:1** Give thanks unto the Lord for He is good and **His mercy endureth forever.** **Psalms 119:64** The earth oh Lord is full of thy mercy. **Psalms 100:5** His mercy is everlasting.

There is no goodness without mercy. Notice in the OT you do not hear them speak of Satan or blaming the Devil for their afflictions or problems. Jesus comes and reveals to the people the enemies of righteousness. All that oppose the principles of the laws of God. Those who know the law but love it not with their lives. Those who are filled with pride and show not the mercies of God. Christ came and conquered the enemy of righteousness that finds power in the letter of the law to condemn God's people.

Mary prophecies: **Luke 1:50-55** And **his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.** He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered **the proud in the imagination of their hearts.** He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath **filled the hungry with good things;** and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen (**helped**) his servant Israel, in **remembrance of his mercy;** As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed **for ever.**

Zacharias prophecies of the mercies of the Lord: **Luke 1:67-79** And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; **To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;** The oath which he swore to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies **might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.** And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, **Through the tender mercy of our God;** whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, **to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

In **Luke 10:18** the disciples had went out and healed the sick and cast out devils. When they returned and testified to the Master of the wonders they had done in His name Jesus rejoiced and danced with them. It says that Jesus stated that He saw Lucifer fall from heaven. Through Genesis, Job, and Revelations we find that when iniquity (*the desire to rebel against God's authority*) was found in Lucifer he was cast to the earth. But when the disciples embraced the authority of the Father found only in His mercy and they exercised that mercy through the name of Christ, the authority of the Father over all creation had been restored to man and Lucifer no longer had any power in heaven or earth to rule the hearts of man. Jesus was not speaking of something He seen in the past but something that happened then and now. The accusations of the accuser of the brethren were no more as man took his rightful place among the mercies of God.

**Matthew 15:22-28** And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, **Have mercy on me, O Lord,** thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. **Then came she and worshipped him,** saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to **dogs.** And she said, **Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.** Then Jesus answered and said unto her, **O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.** And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Can you see the wonder of the mercies of our God. Here is a Gentile woman as you and I are considered among the Jews even as she was called a dog. Jesus was not degrading her but simply pointing out that His time to deliver even the Gentiles or dogs of society would soon but had not yet come. I imagine it broke His heart not to help her. Yet this woman persistently appeals to the mercy of her God. She worships Him expressing her love for Him and says Master even the dogs of society who yet love you gain from the mercies you bestow even if they are not to receive them. I am willing to take anything. If not the healing and deliverance simply the knowing of your mercy and love for me. The mercies of the Father were suddenly released upon her and her generations for her obedience to the mercies of God were great and counted as faith unto her and her daughter. What a God of wonder.

Even though God had a plan, set time, and prophecies that were to be fulfilled, yet He found a way to show His mercy to this woman. The mercy of God always finds a way. The mercy of God cannot fail and never ends. Some of us do not let mercy find a way because we are not focused on the Master but on our problem. We are looking for sympathy from someone instead of mercy from the Master. Jesus told this woman, "I cannot speak healing to her but instead because of your faith be it what you will in my name." Jesus found a way to extend mercy regardless. He said the authority of My mercy is in your willful obedience in honor to My name.

Again in **Mark Chapter 10** is another account of a blind beggar who cries out for mercy from the Master. The more the disciples tried to quit him the louder he cried for mercy. Jesus told him to come to Him and the beggar stood and began to take of his beggar clothes. He knew he would see and beg no more because he had cried out and caught the attention of the Master's mercy.

**Matthew 17:14-21** *And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, **Lord, have mercy on my son:** for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, **O faithless (disobedient) and perverse (selfish) generation,** how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, **Why could not we cast him out?** And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief (lack of right motives, discipline, and understanding):** for verily I say unto you, **If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed (even a little obedience),** ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you (you shall have authority). **Howbeit (however, in addition to your obedience) this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting (it requires spiritual discipline and self denial from a heart motivated by the mercy of the Father for others).***

Do we have such mercy for others? When we pray is it with mercy? When we prophecy is it with mercy? When someone at work frustrates us, do we respond with mercy? When someone else begins to tell us of all their problems are quick to interrupt and unload ours, do we say well bless you I pray for you just to end the conversation of woes? Or, is your heart moved with compassion and mercy?

**La:3:20-25** *My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me. This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. **It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.** The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.*

Mercy is not the absence of authority and accountability but the presence of healing, restoration, kindness, and compassion provoking to righteousness and relationship with the Master. Mercy is undeserved grace providing responsible choice for a life changing experience.

So, how do we have this mercy? **James 2:12-13** *So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. For he shall have **judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy;** and mercy rejoiceth against judgment. The power of the authority of God is only given to those who show mercy. Mercy turns away judgment. Mercy is shown to the merciful.*

**James 3:17** *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, **full of mercy** and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*

**James 5:11** *Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and **of tender mercy.***

**Eph. 2:4-5** *But God, who is **rich in mercy,** for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

**Psalms 86:5** *For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and **plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.***

**Hebrews 4:15-16** *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, **that we may obtain mercy,** and find grace to help **in time of need.***