

## GOD the SON - "Jesus, Our Healer" Pt.2 - John 5:1-16

I. Show mercy by **GATHERING** frequently. (v.1-4)

II. Show mercy by **SEEING & SERVING** compassionately. (v.5-9)

III. Show mercy by **CONFRONTING** lovingly. (v.10-14)

IV. Show mercy by **PREPARING** mentally. (v.15-16)

"Simple MERCY and forgiveness is something the city of Attleboro, Massachusetts, might do well to practice. They sent Eileen Wilbur, a 74-year-old blind woman and citizen of the city, a threat to put a lien on her home and a \$48 penalty if she did not pay her past-due water bill. The amount of the bill was one cent. The city's unwillingness to forgive a one cent bill, cost it 42 cents postage, and a lot of bad publicity in their attempt to collect."

"For 100 days in 1994, Rwanda was a killing field. Saveri Nemeye was one of the aggressors. With a machete he brutally killed Rosaria Bankundiye's husband and their four children. Released from prison in 2004, Saveri went to Rosaria and begged for forgiveness. Rosaria considered his request and then granted it. "How can I refuse to forgive when I'm a forgiven sinner, too?" she asks. Other Christians in Rwanda "describe praying extensively before choosing to grant forgiveness, and speak of the example of Jesus forgiving his killers as he hung on the cross: 'Father, forgive them, for they know now what they do.'"

Even though we know it is the right thing to do, and even though we know God commands us to forgive, we understand that this kind of radical forgiveness is a miracle from God who promised to GIVE US MERCY, as we GIVE MERCY TO OTHERS."

- If you were to go the Bible and count up the number of times "**MERCY**" appears in Scripture, in the ancient Hebrew of the Old Testament, and the ancient Greek of the New Testament, you would discover it to be used close to **300x!!**

Certainly, **MERCY** is a characteristic of **GOD**. Did you know that after the children of Israel sinned with the golden calf in the wilderness, GOD had a confrontation with them... and this is how He introduces Himself in Exodus 34:6 NLT: "The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, "I am YAHWEH! The LORD! The GOD of compassion and mercy!"

- **Psalm 103:8 NKJV** - "The Lord is **merciful** and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in **mercy**."
- **Matt 5:7 NLT** - "God blesses those who are **merciful**, for they will be shown **mercy**."

In John chapter 5, Jesus comes to a man at a place called the pool of "**Bethesda**". Now Bethesda is a Hebrew word that means "the house of **MERCY**."

### III. Show mercy by **CONFRONTING** lovingly.

*"The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.' " Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."*

- As you **gather frequently**, and you **observe compassionately**, there may come a time, when you have to **confront that person with a spiritual issue**, at a deeper level.
  - **Prov 27:5 NKJV** - "**Open rebuke** is better than love carefully concealed."
  - **Prov 27:6 NKJV** - "Faithful **are the wounds** of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy **are** deceitful."
- Jesus confronted a man, who'd become so used to this lifestyle, that Jesus essentially asked: "**Are you sure you want to change?**"
  - "**An beggar often loses a good living** by being cured of his disease." - **Barclay**
  - In other words, as bad as his current situation was, at least he was familiar with it.
- **The most merciful thing can ever do for a person, is to get past the physical needs, and into their spiritual needs**, because there's **NO** other message like the Gospel that brings **LIFE** and **HEALING**. People who are **dying** need to know about **eternal life**!!
- "**Sin no more, lest something worse come upon you.**" What could be worse than that? I'll tell you what could be worse than that: **ETERNAL SUFFERING** that is the result of unrepentant sin - that could be worse!!
  - **It's as if Jesus said to the man** - "This disease has robbed you of the best years of your **LIFE** but unrepentant sin will rob you of **ETERNITY**!"
    - "If I weep for the **body** from which the soul is departed, should I not weep for the **soul** from which God is departed?" - **Augustine**

### IV. Show mercy by **PREPARING** mentally.

**“The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.”**

- **WARNING:** Expect regular adversity, if you live like this! Very few people (possibly none in today's culture) are going to understand your love, in showing mercy to people, especially if you bring in the spiritual element of bringing the Gospel. You're gonna have some enemies!!
  - **John 15:18–20** NLT - “If the world *hates you*, remember that it hated me first. The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so *it hates you*. Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally *they will persecute you*.”
  - **2 Timothy 3:12** NKJV - “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer *persecution*.”
  - **Matt 5:10-12** NKJV - “God blesses those who are *persecuted* for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. God blesses you when people *mock you* and *persecute you* and *lie about you* and *say all sorts of evil things against you* because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.”
  - **John 16:33** NKJV - “In the world *you will have tribulation*; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
  
- **The Pharisees had turned into hard-hearted legalists, list-makers, and they couldn't even rejoice in that good had been done.** The most vicious people in the body of Christ are usually those people that make it all about rules. They don't care about showing mercy or doing good, only seeing that their silly rules, and man-made regulations are kept!
  
- **Ask the Lord to give *YOU* new eyes to be able to see those who are hurting** around you, to reach out physically as well as spiritually, and to pay no attention to those among us who are too narrow to care.