

EMPTY: Mercy

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.—Matthew 5:7

While we follow the social distancing mandate, let us be mindful to not practice spiritual distancing. I pray we will live as people of faith rather than people controlled by fear and self-preservation.

Lamentation 3 and Habakkuk 3 bring me great comfort.

- Habakkuk 3:17-19
- Lamentations 3:22-23, “Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed.”

1. God’s Mercy **Never** Fails.

Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed.—Lamentations 3:22

Grace is getting what you don’t deserve
Mercy, not getting what you do deserve.

Immorality, greed, hatred, division, destruction of our planet,
The General Confession for the Holy Communion service clearly describes our plight:
Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

*We have not done your will, we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.*

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Romans 6:23, Wages of sin is death.

Except for Jesus’ love and atoning sacrifice, we would all receive death.

- God loved us with an everlasting love.
- God is a God of mercy.

New Testament: **Eleos**, (el'-eh-os)**mercy, pity, compassion**

Old Testasment: **Hesed**, (kheh'-sed) love, favor, loving kindness, covenant faithfulness

Lamentations 3:22-23, “*Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*”

2. Three **Benefits** of God’s Mercies.

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What are the benefits of God’s Mercies? What compassions do not fail?
A survey through the Gospel of Matthew, leads to three defined benefits.

A. Forgiveness

Who pardons all your iniquities.—Psalm 103:3

Matthew 9:13, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Matthew 18:33, “Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?”

Luke 18:13, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

Luke 23:42-43, “Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

B. Healing and Deliverance.

Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion. —Psalm 103:3-4

Matthew 9:27, “Two blind men followed him, calling out, “***Have mercy on us, Son of David!***”

Matthew 20:30-31, similar but in Jericho, on the way to Jerusalem. Bartimaeus

“They shouted, “***Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!***”

Matthew 15:22, “A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “***Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me!*** My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

Matthew 17:15, “***Lord, have mercy on my son...***”

Mark 9:29, He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”)

- Daniel Fast, during this virus pandemic.
- Covid-19, we should pray, together, in unison, as we fast.
- 19th hour, is 7:00 PM
- What if we all stopped at 7:00 PM, socially distant, but united in Spirit.
- 7 PM and pray for 7 minutes for God’s Mercy. Healing, and deliverance.

C. Provision

Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle. —Psalm 103:5

Matthew 12:7, disciples picked heads of grain

Hosea 6:6 (OT *Hesed*, loving kindness, mercy)

Matthew 15:32, feeding the 4,000 (Compassion, similar meaning, different word.)

3. Call to Be Merciful

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. —Matthew 5:7

7 PM, tonight and every night, Psalm 27, 14 verses (7 X 2).

Psalm 27:1, “The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?

Vs. 7, “Hear my voice when I call, LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.

Psalm 27 concludes with verse 14, “Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!”