

Your Ministry of Mercy

The Miracle of Mercy -- Part 7 -- May 21, 2017

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” **Matthew 5:7 (NIV)**

- **Mercy is **LOVE** in action.**
- **Compassion-ate: To enter into someone else’s **PAIN**.**

“A man with leprosy came to Jesus and begged him on his knees, ‘If you are willing, you can make me clean.’

“Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. ‘I am willing,’ he said. ‘Be clean!’ Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured. “Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ‘See that you don’t tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.’ Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.” **Mark 1:40-45 (NIV)**

“Compassion is about making a decision. It’s not an emotion . . . Expressing compassion is a deliberate choice [to embrace pain that is not your own] . . . We are most like Christ when we choose to offer the gift of our presence and choose to absorb within ourselves the suffering of the least, the last, and the lost. Are you looking for Jesus? That’s where you’ll find him.”

“[The priest] is to slaughter the lamb in the holy place where the sin offering and the burnt offering are slaughtered . . . The priest is to take some of the blood of the guilt offering and put it on the lobe of the right ear of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot.” **Leviticus 14:13-14 (NIV)**

“Moses slaughtered the ram and took some of its blood and put it on the lobe of Aaron’s right ear, on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot. Moses also brought Aaron’s sons forward and put some of the blood on the lobes of their right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands and on the big toes of their right feet.” **Leviticus 8:23-24 (NIV)**

- **Whether you’re a priest or a leper: Same **SACRIFICE** for all of us.**

Question: What am I willing to do? _____

- **Mercy is the key to **ANSWERED PRAYER**.**

READ: **Isaiah 58:5-12 (NIV)**

And as we follow your heart
We are led to the lost
Finding there a place of praise
No matter what the cost
So we will stand with the weak
Give our most to the least
Serving you with all we have
Your kingdom, God, we seek
A Life of Love — David Gate