

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Four : Blessed Are the Merciful, for They Shall Be Shown Mercy and Receive Mercy

I. Overview:

Mercy is the most far-reaching of God's attributes, going further than His grace and love. Our disobedience affords God's mercy an opportunity; God's selection is of God who shows mercy; we do not need to will or to run, for God has mercy on us. If we would serve God in His New Testament economy, we need to know that it is wholly a matter of God's sovereign mercy. Romans 9 reveals the principle that everything depends on God's mercy. In His sovereignty God the Father has had mercy on us; therefore, we must praise and worship Him for His sovereign mercy. If we are merciful to others, the Lord will give us mercy, especially at His judgment seat. We need to show mercy, for mercy triumphs over judgment. If we have mercy on our brother today, we will receive mercy from the Lord at His judgment seat.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain mercy being the most far reaching of God's attributes.

Mercy is the most far reaching of God's attributes. Mercy goes further than grace. God's love does not reach as far as His grace, and His grace does not reach as far as His mercy. If I come to you as your dear friend, and you give me a gift, that is grace. However, if I am a poor, unclean beggar, unable to do anything for myself, and you give me a gift, that is mercy. This illustrates the fact that God's mercy is more far reaching than His grace.

B. Expound we still, in some ways, being in a condition that needs God's mercy.

None of us was in a condition that corresponded to His grace. We were so poor and pitiful that there was the need for God's mercy to extend to our fallen condition. God's mercy has brought us into His grace. How we need to realize this and worship God for His mercy! Even now, after being saved and having shared in the riches of God's life, we still, in some ways, are in a condition that needs God's mercy to reach us.

Day 2 —

A. Explain as vessels of mercy unto honour and glory.

We were chosen by God according to His sovereign mercy. Being a vessel of mercy is not the result of our choice; it originates with God's sovereignty. It is of

God's sovereignty that He created us vessels of mercy to contain Himself. His sovereignty is the basis of His selection. God chose us even before we were born, in fact, before the foundation of the world.

B. Expound the becoming vessels of mercy being a matter of God's sovereign mercy.

In Romans 9:23 and 24, "In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory, even us, whom He has also called." God has the authority to make us, whom He has selected and called, vessels of mercy to contain Him so that the riches of His glory may be made known, manifested. This is altogether a matter of God's sovereign mercy.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the principle in Romans 9.

Zeal and pursuit are of no use. Waiting too long, not waiting long enough, being too quick, or not being too quick—none of these is of any use. Being in one place or another, hearing much or hearing little—none of these is of any use either. Everything depends on the mercy of God. Only the Holy Spirit is able to lead men to a proper standing. There must at least be one time when we see that everything depends on God's mercy.

B. State what the three kinds of people needed God's dealings.

Those who are strong in their will, those who are strong in their emotion, and those who are strong in their mind. These three conditions must experience God's breaking. Man's strong points often hinder him from spiritual progress even more than his weak points. Unless a man is dealt with in these three areas, he cannot know God's mercy.

Day 4 —

A. State Christ being qualified to become our High Priest.

Christ became a man and lived on earth as a man, passing through all the human sufferings. In order to be qualified to be the High Priest, Christ was incarnated to be like us. We may even say that He is more than like us because He suffered in His human life certain things that we have not suffered. He became like us, sympathizing with all our weaknesses.

B. Compare the difference between mercy and grace.

Mercy is related to the present condition, and grace is related to the future condition. Mercy speaks of the poverty of your present condition, and grace speaks of the bright condition that you will be saved into in the future. The feeling that God has toward us when we are sinners is mercy. The work that God does upon us to make us the children of God is grace.

Day 5 —

A. Explain righteousness and mercy.

To be righteous is to give one what he deserves, but to be merciful is to give someone better than what he deserves. For the kingdom of the heavens, we need to be not only righteous but also merciful. To receive mercy is to receive what we do not deserve. If we are merciful to others, the Lord will grant us mercy, especially at His judgment seat.

B. Expound how a person to treat himself and others as living in the kingdom of the heavens.

When most people learn to restrict themselves righteously, they inevitably make the same, if not more stringent, demands on others. However, the Lord said that a person living in the kingdom of the heavens is full of mercy toward others while being righteous toward himself. Mercy accommodates people more than grace. A person living in the kingdom of the heavens shows mercy to those who are improper and unworthy of grace.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the words in James 2:13, and how to use them.

To despise a poor brother is to have no mercy. Anyone who despises a poor brother in this way will not receive mercy when he appears before the judgment seat of Christ. In James 2:13 James is telling us not to despise our brother. If we despise a brother, this means that we do not have mercy on him. Then when we come before the Lord to be judged, He will not show mercy to us, because we have not shown mercy to our brother.

B. Expound what we must know if we would serve the Lord.

We must know the Spirit, the life in the Spirit, and the righteousness of God. Furthermore, we must know God's mercy in the selection of grace. We should bow down before the Lord and worship Him for His mercy. The more you worship the Lord for His mercy, the more you will be uplifted. Do not strive to bear responsibility, you will find that, in His mercy, the Lord is bearing you.

III. Conclusion:

If you know yourself, whenever someone falls, you will say, "Lord, have mercy on me and on my brother. We are all weak vessels that cannot fulfill Your requirements. Lord, even if my brother offered me, I still have mercy on him. If you realize how weak you are, and how many mistakes you have made, you will have mercy for others. This is not about external matters, but rather about what is within us. We must learn to be both strict and merciful. If we are strict with others, we must also show them mercy. This is a lesson we need to learn. The people of the kingdom of heavens are righteous and merciful. When we are righteous, we must be absolutely so; when we are merciful, we must be abundantly so. Although righteousness and mercy are two distinct extremes, they must both be present in our experiences. Our righteousness and mercy must come together.