

From the Pastor

The fifth Beatitude reads, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7).

Being merciful is an important quality of God’s character and nature. Therefore, it is a quality that we must learn to show ourselves.

It would help for us to know what is meant by the words merciful and mercy. Why? Because the dictionary definition of mercy is not what is meant by the Greek words translated as “merciful” and “mercy” in this verse.

The dictionary definition of mercy is “a refraining from harming or punishing offenders, enemies, persons in one’s power, etc.; kindness in excess of what may be expected or demanded by fairness; forbearance and compassion.” (Webster’s New World Dictionary)

The Bible does use mercy this way when God refrained from punishing Israel and Judah for their sins immediately. He showed great forbearance and mercy by not immediately punishing them for their idolatry—worshipping false gods instead of Him the true God. God is very merciful for He is hopeful in the possibility that His people may turn or return to Him. We see this in the words of the prophet Joel in Joel 2:12-13, “‘Now, therefore,’ says the Lord, ‘Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning.’ So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and he relents from doing harm.”

However, this aspect of God’s mercy does not last forever. God withheld His punishment of Israel and Judah; giving them room to repent which they never did. Therefore, Jeremiah wrote during the time that the House of Judah was being taken captive by the king of Babylon in Jeremiah 15:6, “‘You have forsaken Me,’ says the Lord, ‘You have gone backward. Therefore I will stretch out My hand against you and destroy you; I am weary of relenting!’”

However, in Matthew 5:7 “merciful” and “mercy” have a different meaning. “Merciful” is from the Greek word “eleemon.” It is an adjective and is only used once in the New Testament—here in this verse. Danker’s Lexicon defines “eleemon” as “pertains to being concerned about people in their need, merciful, sympathetic, compassionate.”

The other Greek word is a verb (“eleeo”) and is translated “shall obtain mercy.” Danker’s defines this word as “to be greatly concerned about someone in need, have compassion/mercy/pity.”

We see that the merciful are those who are truly concerned about the needs of others. The merciful are not consumed or motivated solely by self-concern. The merciful are those who understand and live by the Second Great Commandment “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Or, as Paul wrote in Philippians 2: 4, “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

God is love. Being merciful means showing love as God does.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	7:33pm	7:33pm	7:35pm
Sunset Friday 9-22	7:26pm	7:26pm	7:28pm



Victoria
Sermon: Steve Moody DVD

Corpus Christi
Split Sermon: Mark Monsivais
Split Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen
Split Sermon: Orlando Mascorro
Split Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, ‘Have mercy [Gk. “eleeo”] on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.’”

Matthew 15:22

Please read the rest of the passage to see what Jesus did in His mercy (Matthew 15:22-28).

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 9/16	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, Victoria, Harlingen, and San Antonio.
Feast of Trumpets Thursday 9/21	Regular time and location in Victoria. Corpus Christi will meet in the regular location at 1:00 p.m. Harlingen will combine with Corpus Christi. San Antonio will meet in the Church of Christ Main Auditorium at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Sabbath 9/23	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Jim Chapman will be in Victoria and San Antonio. There will be a DVD sermon in Harlingen.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

Feast of Trumpets: Services will be Thursday morning, September 21 at 10:00 a.m. Please remember to come prepared for the Holy Day offering.

Feast of Trumpets in Corpus Christi: Services will be at 1 PM. Harlingen will meet with Corpus Christi for services. There will be a covered dish social after services. The Corpus Christi congregation will provide the main course and side dishes, Harlingen will provide the desserts.

Day of Atonement: This year the Day of Atonement falls on the weekly Sabbath, September 30.

San Antonio Potluck: The next regularly scheduled potluck will be November 4.