

## THE GIFT OF SHOWING MERCY - A SERVING GIFT

TEXT: Romans 12:8,15

### EXPLANATION

#### I. WHAT WAS INVOLVED IN THIS GIFT

- A. The gift of showing mercy was the God given ability to show compassion upon those who were suffering.
- B. This gift, like all the gifts which were for the edification of the body of Christ, was directed primarily to believers but it no doubt extended to others (Gal. 6:10).
- C. This gift involved more than just feelings of pity, it evidenced itself in doing deeds to relieve those who were suffering.
- D. This gift required a certain element along with its exercise (Rom. 12:8). It wasn't enough to relieve those suffering out of constraint or duty this gift strengthened others by the manner in which it was exercised.
- E. Notice the natural tendency is to avoid those who are suffering. But those who have this gift are motivated to identify with the misfortune and distress of others and to render deeds of love and concern.

### EXERCISE

#### II. HOW THIS GIFT WAS EXERCISED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. This gift was exemplified in the life and ministry of the

Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus was moved with compassion and it extended beyond just feelings of pity. He fed the multitudes, healed the lepers, gave sight to the blind and helped those in need.

- B. This gift was displayed in the lives of different individuals as they sought to relieve the sufferings of others in the body of Christ.
  - 1. It was no doubt evidenced when some sold their possessions to help the poor in the early church (Acts 2:44,45).
  - 2. Dorcas certainly seems to be one who displayed this gift (Acts 9:36).
  - 3. Others would include the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:33,34) and also Onesiphorus (II Tim. 1:16,17).

#### EXTENT

### III. HOW THIS GIFT OPERATES AND APPLIES TO INDIVIDUALS IN OUR DAY

- A. Those who have the gift of showing mercy will evidence this gift in serving to relieve those suffering and not just speaking about them. Some folks show pity but not performance: "If I can help you just let me know, or you know you can call on me if you need me".
- B. The gift of showing mercy doesn't end with caring about those in need, it expresses itself in sharing with those in need. Note James 2:15,16.
- C. The person who has this gift will do more than relieve or help those in need, he will be able to do it in a way that blesses others and strengthens them.
- D. Sometimes folks do help others but it is very evident they do not possess the gift of showing mercy because of their attitudes and motives involved. "I'll help you but it's only because I can't get out of it." "You just remember who did this for you." Those who have this gift help relieve

others but they don't put others down in the time of it.

## ERROR

### IV. HOW THIS GIFT MAY BE MISAPPLIED OR MISUSED

- A. Like with the other gifts it's possible for a person to become proud of his ability to empathize with others.
- B. Another error would be to build up resentment toward others who don't seem to sensitive or concerned about others.
- C. Individuals with this particular gift may have a strong tendency to be led at times by their emotions rather than reason.