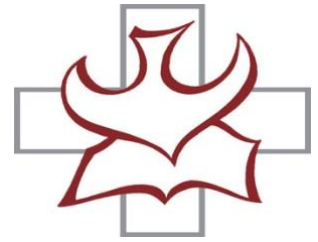


Mercy

Exodus 34:5-7 Psalm 130 Mark 10:46-52

November 10, 2019

Pastor Dave Bolte



Mercy is showing kindness to someone in need.

Mercy always starts with God -- *Mercy* is an attribute of God -- it's His nature to be *merciful*; *mercy* is a part of His character. **God is always showing kindness to people in need.**

Jesus was *merciful* to blind Bartimaeus in our Gospel lesson for today. **He was a man in need!** Even his name shows his dire circumstances: Bartimaeus is actually two words: “Bar” = *son of*; “Timaheus” = *blind man*. The name “Bartimaeus” means *son of a blind man*! **Bartimaeus was the blind son of a blind father!** The double emphasis highlights that he is not just physically blind; but also spiritually blind. Bartimaeus was helpless. *He needed God's mercy!*

Bartimaeus reminds us that *God's Mercy* is only for those who are broken and in need. Jesus was not merciful to the Pharisees nor the Sadducees. There is no mercy to the proud, the arrogant and the unrepentant. Remember what Jesus said in the book of Revelation:

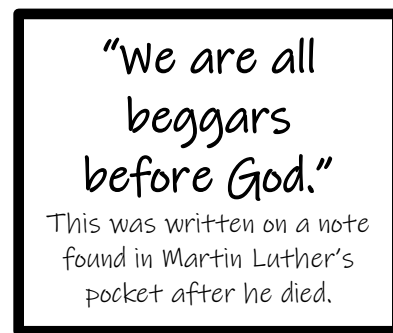
You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. Revelation 3:17

God's Law exposes our sin; the chief purpose of the Ten Commandments is to show you just how *wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked* you are in God's sight. We need help! Like “double blind” Bartimaeus, all we can do is shout out: *"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

And Jesus was *merciful* to the “*Son of the Blind Man*.” Jesus heard his prayer, stopped, and called Bartimaeus to Him. The wording in the story

indicates that Jesus had compassion on Bartimaeus. Jesus deeply cared about him. Jesus heals Bartimaeus and now he can see¹! Jesus showed Bartimaeus kindness. Jesus was *merciful* to him!

This story is told in 3 of the 4 Gospels so that you don't miss the point: *Jesus delighted in showing mercy Bartimaeus*. That same Jesus delights to show mercy to you as well!



We are all sons and daughters of blind men. Sin has been passed down to us from Adam; original sin blinds us to the things of God; it corrupts us, makes us enemies of God, and leads us into all kinds of rebellion, disobedience, and immorality. Original sin leaves us *wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked* in God's sight. Original Sin leaves us with a sinful nature that is full of evil thoughts and depraved desires; Original Sin leads us straight into death and the fires of hell.

But Jesus is *merciful* to you; He saw your need and He acted in kindness. He did what you were unable to do. He came into the world to live a perfect life for you; and He took your place under God's Ten Commandments. He completely and fully obeyed them every moment of everyday. His perfect life is given to you and God considers you holy and righteous.

When Jesus died on the cross, He crucified your old sinful nature; and in the Resurrection of Christ, you are a new creation. The blindness of Original Sin has been healed; like Bartimaeus, you can see! God has opened your eyes to see Jesus as your Savior²! Your sins are forgiven; Heaven is your home; and you have a new life to live!

¹ Interestingly, Bartimaeus was healed only days before Jesus entered Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week (Luke 19). One aspect of the gift that Jesus gave Bartimaeus was he would now be able to see the events of Holy Week, the most important week in the history of the world – and the work of Jesus that would bring eternal salvation not only to him but to all people!

² By faith, you can now “see” what Jesus did in the most important week in the history of the world to bring eternal salvation to all people!

You now live a life of *Mercy*: you learn from Christ to show kindness to others who are in need!

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36

The LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

We live merciful lives because God first was merciful to us!

In Christ, we learn to show kindness to other people who are in need. We are loving and patient with others; we are helpful and caring as we live each day in God's *mercy*. *Mercy* marks our way and describes our lives as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We live merciful lives because God first was merciful to us!

Today we are celebrating life Sunday; we remember that God is the Lord and giver of all life, from “*the womb to the tomb*.” As we celebrate, we also mourn that sixty million unborn children³ have died as a result of the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision in 1973. 60,000,000 infants – it is impossible to even fathom that many people.

Our country needs the *Mercy of Jesus*.

We must have *mercy* on unborn children. In Scripture, there is no such thing as a “*pro-choice*” position, where a mother has the right to take the life of their own unborn child. Rather than “*pro-choice*”, the Bible would call it breaking the Fifth Commandment: “Thou shall not kill.” In God's eyes, there is no such thing as a “*woman’s right to choose*” an abortion. Nor

³ <https://www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes>; January 20, 2019 life quote

is there such a thing as a man *supporting, encouraging, or enabling* a woman to have an abortion. That too breaks the 5th Commandment.

“Pro-choice” ideas and attitudes are completely worldly ideas that stand in direct opposition to Lord of Life and His Commandments. Do not deceive yourself: if you support the pro-choice movement, you in direct rebellion to God and His commandments. Don’t be deceived by Satan and the world around you. Abortion is murder; it shatters the 5th Commandment: an unborn child dies in abortion. 60,000,000 babies in our country alone. We must have *mercy* on unborn children.

Not only do we show *mercy* to the unborn when we take a stand on God's Word and try to protect the life of the unborn, but we also show *mercy* to those who have had abortions. There are 60,000,000 mothers out there who have gone through this --- many of them are remorseful, ashamed, repentant, and extremely sorrowful. It is a **heavy burden of guilt** for a woman to carry. We show *mercy* to those who have been deceived by the world and have been caught up in this sin.

The Gospel message that we proclaim *loud, clear and unequivocal* is that in Christ, ALL SIN IS FORGIVEN; even abortion. In Christ, all guilt is removed, and you are given peace with God. Jesus is *merciful* to you --- even if you have been caught up in abortion in some way or some how. His death pays for your sin; your guilt is buried with Him; and in His resurrection, you are declared “not guilty!” and given a new life to live. Believe that Jesus is your Savior and that these things are true for you! Jesus is *merciful* to you --- even if you have been caught up in abortion. You have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ! The Lord Jesus is *merciful* to you!

The Lord has shown kindness to us all; He is *merciful* to you! Now go out, and live a life of *mercy*; *be kind to those in need!* Clearly and unequivocally proclaim the Gospel message of forgiveness in the Lord Jesus Christ!

We live merciful lives

because God first was merciful to us!