

Pt 4: **HEALING** – *Understanding God's Mercy*

Psalm 145:8-9 (nkjv) *The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. 9: The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.*

God is love. Compassion and mercy express His character.

Both in the Hebrew (*Old Testament*) and in the Greek (*New Testament*) compassion and mercy are interchangeable.

Literally meaning to love tenderly, to pity, to show mercy, and to be full of eager yearning.

2 Corinthians 1:3 (nkjv) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,*

Psalm 145:9 (nkjv) *The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.*

Psalm 103:1-4 (nkjv) *Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! 2: Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, 4: Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies,*

Some of those *tender mercies* are the forgiveness of our sins and the healing of our diseases.

Psalm 103:8 (nkjv) *The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.*

He is full of compassion. He is abounding in mercy. He is full and complete in mercy towards us.

Jesus is our supreme example of what God the Father's heart is like.

John 14:9b (nkjv) *Jesus said to him, ... He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?*

Jesus is the will of God in action. And Jesus doesn't change. **Hebrews 13:8** (nkjv) *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

Jesus is the attitude and the heart of God toward us and God hasn't changed.

He is still **Psalm 145:8** (nkjv) *gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.*

Matthew 14:13-14 (nkjv) *When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. 14: And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.*

His great heart is still moved with compassion and mercy.

Matthew 20:29-34 (nkjv) *Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. 30: And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" 31: Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" 32: So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" 33: They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened." 34: So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.*

Mark 1:40-42 (nkjv) *Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." 41: Then Jesus, moved with compassion stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." 42: As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.*

Jesus says today that He is still willing. He is still willing to move with compassion today.

Mark 5:18-20 (nkjv) *And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. 19: However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." 20: And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.*

Jesus said go and tell them how I have had compassion. Preach it.
We also need to go and to tell people about our compassionate Saviour.

Mark 10:46-52 (nkjv) *Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. 47: And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48: Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49: So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."*

Now what was Bartimaeus looking for? For Jesus to show mercy towards him. "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" "Have compassion on me." Now that is what got Jesus' attention.

50: *And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. 51: So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." 52: Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.*

Bartimaeus had faith in Jesus' mercy. "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me."
It was faith that was anchored in the mercy of God.

Hebrews 2:17 (nlt) *Therefore, it was necessary for Jesus to be in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. He then could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.*

Jesus is our merciful high priest.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (nkjv) *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15: For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16: Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

That could be translated for these modern times, very accurately, "Find mercy and grace to help in the nick of time."

Jesus is touched with our struggles. He cares. His great heart is aching to release mercy to us. God in His great mercy stood over us and He actually did suffer for us. He became our substitute in suffering.

Philippians 2:6-8 (niv) *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7: but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8: And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!*

And He took the stripes on His back. He took our place. Maybe you feel like God has run out of mercy for you. He sent his Son to die, He paid the greatest sacrifice, He allowed Him to suffer because of His great compassionate heart.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (nkjv) *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15: For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16: Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

How should we come? Boldly to the throne of grace – not the throne of judgement. We come to the throne of Grace to find mercy and grace to help us in our time of need, or maybe for you, in the nick of time.

The best way that I know to come to God is to start to worship Him.

James 4:8a (nkjv) *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you....*

Psalms 37:4 (niv) *Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.*

God's mercy is not based on us keeping a bunch of rules. We don't come based upon our good works, we come based on the work of Christ.

Ask for mercy and grace from the hands of God.