

## MERCY

I've heard many people, time and time again, say, "Lord have mercy!" But do they really know what the tender mercy of God is? C.H. Spurgeon said, "Mercy is music, and 'tender mercy' is the most exquisite form of it, especially to a broken heart." From the outset we need to recognise that mercy is the result and the effect of God's goodness and grace. It doesn't come from any other source, nor for any other reason, except God's inherent goodness.

*Micah 7:18* says, "**He delights in mercy.**" Observe those words... "*He delights in mercy.*" You will not find a single verse anywhere in the Bible that says God delights in wrath and judgment and punishment. But you can find many places which either state plainly or clearly indicate, just as it does here, that He delights in mercy. It's His joy to show mercy to all of us. The biblical concept of mercy always involves help to those who are in need or distress. Such help covers a broad range of things; from assistance in finding a bride, to God's forgiveness of wrongs. The word, "merciful," describes a quality of God that denotes compassion and unconditional love. Tender mercy is something that gives evidence to divine favour.

Mercy sets God's power working for us. Nothing else sets His power working for us so effectively - only His mercy. We can't demand, "Now God, you do this and you do that." Can we? It's only His mercy that sets His power working for us. And it works for us everyday and in every situation, and in ways we can never imagine. He often does things for which we are totally ungrateful. Yet, His power continues to work for us day by day. God's mercy avenges our disputes and defeats our enemies. What's more, His mercy even makes His justice become our friend.

In the final five verses of the book of Amos (Amos 9:11-15), after the prophet has been painting a picture of gloom, suddenly his tone changes... This prophet of doom becomes a prophet of delight. The victims become victors, and for one reason; God remembers His mercy! As Amos concludes his book with a note of victory, I want you to note three precious promises that God declares to His people. (1) To raise up and rebuild the ruins, (2) to bring back the captives, and (3) to establish them in their land. There are many of you who need to know that God **always remembers His mercy**. Therefore, He will rise up and rebuild your ruins, He will bring you out of that situation which is holding you captive, and He will establish you where He has planted you.

Therefore, be encouraged and grown strong in the light of God's mercies.