

MERCY

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:6,8)

"Mercy" means compassion. This means you are able to feel with and for another. A person with the gift of mercy has special compassion on those suffering and an ability to help them.

The gift of mercy involves an attitude as well as an action. This is shown in the story of the Good Samaritan recorded in Luke 10:30-37. The Samaritan not only had compassion on the victim of the robbers, but also took action to help him.

A requirement is that this gift should be ministered with cheerfulness. The word "cheerfulness" refers to a joyful readiness to do anything possible immediately to relieve suffering.

Compare the compassion of the disciples with that of Jesus as illustrated in the following events:

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Jesus</u>	<u>Disciples</u>
Matthew 15:23-28 Syrophoenician woman	Healed daughter	Send away
Mark 8:1-9 Multitudes	Fed them	Send away
Matthew 20:31-34 Blind men	Healed them	Tried to make them be quiet
Mark 10:48-49 Blind Bartemaus	Healed him	Tried to make him be quiet

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Study these illustrations of the gift of mercy:

-Jesus, in connection with healing: Matthew 9:27-30; 15:21-28; 17:14-18; 20:30-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 17:1-14

-The Good Samaritan: Luke 10:30-37

-Dorcus: Acts 9:36-42