

CDM Kampungku Connection

Theme: See God's Mercy: Mercy yesterday and today March 2022

Opening prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, we come before you today as a community who has much to be grateful for. We are grateful for the family you have given us though we often struggle to appreciate them unconditionally; we are grateful for the job you have given us though we complain about the conditions; we are grateful for the church you have given us though we struggle to accept some people we have to contend with. Even then, you have been merciful to us, still giving us good things and yet we sometimes fail to see that these blessings are your ways of showing your love for us, undeserving people. With all these limitations, we look at you helplessly to hold on to the promises you have made that you will be with us. As we enter into Lent, let us focus on the mercy you have shown us, a mercy that is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Discuss:



Share a moment in your life where you saw mercy shown to you or to others that touched you in a profound?

Did it alter your faith journey?

If Yes, did your notion about Jesus change? In what way?

Consider this:



Interestingly, the word "mercy" has got three parallel meaning in Latin (merces) which is "pity", "reward" or simply meaning "price paid". It is also connected to actions such as forgiveness, benevolence and kindness. If you could put it in an order, it would come across as something like this:

Step 1: Pity – A sense of sadness for someone

Step 2: Reward – An act of kindness

Step 3: Price Paid – Level of restoration

Have you shown pity towards someone before? What would the action entail, perhaps going up to the person and expressing words compassion, "I am sorry to hear about your loss" or "You must have gone through a tough time". This sense of pity is often elevated to empathy, where you acknowledge your experience in a similar situation when you say "I understand

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what you are going through, I have lost someone I loved too before”. These actions are all ways to demonstrate concern for people. In Step 2, we see a “reward” or an act of kindness. This could include helping the person to alleviate the difficulties such as being present at a funeral to ease the burden of a mourning person by helping wherever possible. As you can see, that act goes beyond just expressing pity!

Now ponder on this...do you go further in most cases after step 2? No, you may have not, and even if you did, perhaps you could not have possibly have done more.

In Step 3, “Price Paid” is where the act restores the person to a state of completeness. This is possible only with God. He paid the ultimate price by sending his only son to die for you and I. Jesus was willing to pay the price of sin then, now and future. This, dear friends, is what mercy is all about. This brand of mercy in a complete circle, a mercy that God shows us and we experience, is one that is done for people who don’t deserve it.

So, with this, we can see that mercy has got two realms:

Human Mercy	Godly Mercy
Measured	Immeasurable
Done to alleviate	Done to restore
Feeling of pity	Act of Love
Price paid is often less compared to loss experienced	Price paid is always over and beyond what was lost.
To a deserving person	To an undeserving person
Outcome: Relief	Outcome: Healing

Discuss:

In Luke 6:36 we read, Be merciful just as your father is merciful.



In the context of human mercy and Godly mercy, what is Luke urging from us and how would that possible?

Scenario Analysis – How would you respond?



Situation	Your response in allegiance to Luke 6:36
A colleague of yours takes credit for a project where you had done most of the leg work. When confronted, he apologizes saying he badly needed the increment, and this project was his only way to go.”	
Your spouse has an anger weakness. Despite many promises he/she continues to display uncontrollable anger that turns the house upside down.	
You come to find out your husband had an inappropriate relationship with another woman in his office. You confront him and after initially denying it, he confesses to it. He seeks your forgiveness.	



Story of Mercy – Kisah Benar!

Benjamin is a retired advertisement and promotion freelance agent. He has been spending much of his retirement, living off whatever little savings and has actively been doing some church programs when invited together with his wife who is a homemaker. One fine day, he gets a visit from a long-lost friend, Alex, who suddenly appears at his doorstep. Excitedly, he goes out to greet him and invites him in. Alex tells him he is running into a very serious cash crunch and needs RM 3000 urgently. Benjamin, without batting an eyelid, rushes into his room, takes out RM 3000 and gives it to him. Alex is shocked and grateful and says, “Ben, I will return this in 1 month. It is a promise”

One month goes past, two months go past and no sign of Alex. Benjamin doesn’t even attempt to call Alex trusting that his friend will do the right thing at the right time. One year later, Benjamin gets a surprise visit from Alex once again at his door. He knew that Alex finally returned to make good on his promise. Again, excitedly Benjamin rushes to the door and happily greeted Alex.

On entering the house, Alex says, “Hey Ben, I am sorry I had not come to return the money on the time I had promised. Things went out of hand, and I ran into more problems. In fact, I am here today...to...to...ask you for another RM 1000. Benjamin paused for a moment...awkward silence prevailed in the room. After what seemed like a lifetime, Benjamin entered his room and took the RM 1000 and gave it to him. He never got back that money too.

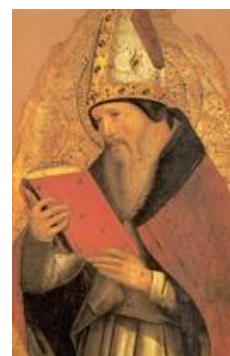
When Benjamin related this story, he was asked, why did you lend him again knowing that he betrayed your trust the first time. To that Benjamin answered, **“How many times have you and I gone for confession and promised to God that we will not commit that sin again and yet we did it again, haven’t we? Has God stopped your breath and took your life away for not keeping your end of the bargain? He continues to bless you despite your unfaithfulness, right? If God can show mercy to you, who are we not to show the same to others? That is mercy!”**



Words of Wisdom

“Trust the past to God's **mercy**, the **present** to God's love, and the **future** to God's providence.”

St Augustine of Hippo



Discuss:

Now having had a clearer perspective on mercy, moving forward, how would you deal with these:

- 1) When you feel you are unworthy and you sometimes feel that God may be upset with you?
- 2) When you feel someone has done things that have hurt you and you struggle to forgive him/her.

Closing prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, we have come to see that your mercy is beyond human understanding and the only way we shall be able to be merciful to others is to rely on your providence to get us through. Help us to also see that no sin too big for your mercy. Help us to have a contrite heart that desires to love you completely, being aware that you love us more than anything, unconditionally and irrevocably. Be with us in this journey of life and grant us your mercy upon us, O Lord and help us be merciful like you to others.

Closing Song: I love You, Lord (by Carol Owens – The Witness)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aj1NQjnhTuE>

This song illustrates what Peter underwent after betraying Jesus 3 times. Feel free to sing it or simply listen to the words as the video is played on Youtube.

<p>I love You, Lord, And You know I always meant to do things right. I love You, Lord, When I think of how I've failed You I could cry. And when I hear You calling me I want to run and hide, Yet You know I love You so.</p> <p>I Love You, Lord, Although I know my heart may not seem true. I love You, Lord, And I've prayed for one more chance to prove I do. I want to leave the past behind and feel Your smile again, Oh Lord, You know I love You so, I love You so.</p>	<p>So if You find it in Your heart to let me start again, I'll be your witness, Lord, Your witness, Lord, Your witness to the end of my life. Let me make it right, Let me try again, I'll be your witness to the end.</p> <p>So if You find it in Your heart to let me start again, I'll be Your witness, Lord, Your witness, Lord, Your witness to the end of my life. Let me make it right, Let me try again, I'll be Your witness to the end, to the end.</p>
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