

PREACHER'S GUIDE

FOR THE

2025 JANUARY OPEN AIR PREACHING

OF THE

ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM



**THEME: SUSTAINED BY GOD'S ENDLESS MERCY
(LAMENTATION 3:22-23)**



DAY 1: MONDAY

TOPIC: MERCY FOUND ME

TEXT: EXODUS 33:19

"And he said, I will make ALL my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy." (KJV).

Every man was born and raised in sin by virtue of Adam's Transgressions; by Adams act of disobedience, every man Born into this world was condemned to death (Romans 5:14). Man was doomed and did not deserve to live or experience the goodness of God anymore, but God, full of mercy, sent His Son Jesus Christ, that whosoever believes in Him shall obtain mercy and be restored (John 3:16). Gods desire for all of us is that we experience his kind of life; being the reason he first made us in his image and likeness but unfortunately, man fell; and since then, God has been seeking for a way to restore us back to himself; And out of mercy, he decided to send his Son to come and die even while we were yet sinners.... O! What manner of love the Father has for us!

Gods Mercy is shown when he withholds punishment that we deserved due to sin; a loving act that shows God's compassion towards man to give him another opportunity to return and begin to experience his Goodness in its fullness. Paul who was surnamed Saul in Ephesians 2:4-5 testified that he was a blasphemer, a persecutor, a killer, but that the mercy of God found him. Hear this, it doesn't matter the nature and weight of your sins before now, the mercy of God is locating you Today. To be found by mercy so as to experience ALL of God's goodness, you need to STAY on the PATH of MERCY; To stay on the path of mercy, you must do the following:

- 1. Encounter the carrier of mercy (Jesus Christ):** Saul encountered Him in Acts 9:4 and his life never remained the same. Accept Him as LORD and Saviour today and you shall be saved (Hebrews 4:16).
- 2. Experience the carrier of Mercy:** You earn the heart of God when you have an experience with Jesus Christ, by making a conscious decision to know more about Him through the study of His Words (2 Tim. 2:15), learning from Him and doing whatever He says (2 Tim. 3:14-17).
- 3. Thirst for a deeper relationship with God:** Constant communication with someone you have an experience with will take you into the space of that person; Desiring in Prayers to always be led by the Spirit of God will take you deeper into God's presence and in His presence is all His goodness (1 Cor. 2:11-14; Ps 16:11).
- 4. Show mercy to others:** Mercy found you to show mercy to others; this way, the flow of God's mercy towards you and your family will not stop (Matt. 5:7).

Once you stay on the path of mercy, you are sure of being found by mercy. Make peace with Jesus CHRIST today; have an experience with Him; commune with Him both in Spirit and in understanding and then, show mercy to others and the God of mercy will show you mercy from today as you stay on His path in the name of Jesus CHRIST.



DAY 2: TUESDAY

TOPIC: THE COMPASSIONATE NATURE OF GOD

TEXT: PSALM 103:8

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy”.

A Study of Exodus 34 leads to a key conclusion, that God is merciful. After studying the meeting that Moses had with God in verse five to seven of this Chapter of the Bible, you will simply make a conclusion that will lead you to exclaim the following: “In short, the Lord’s name is Mercy”. We know that His name is mercy and His nature is mercy because He said this Himself. We see that many of his actions and decisions are a direct derivative of His unending mercies and His Faithfulness. We know for sure that He is merciful in Words and in deeds.

As we go through the events of the Bible, we see that from age to age, God has shown Himself to be merciful. We also see many Bible characters testifying to the unending mercies of God. In our text, the Psalmist testified that the Lord is merciful, gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy. On several occasions, the Psalmist would applaud, sing and talk about how merciful God is, to the extent of teaching that “There is forgiveness with God that He mayest be feared” in Psalm 130:4. He must have received God’s mercy when He felt that God will not forgive and kept receiving so much of God’s plenteous mercies that He saw God as an extraordinary being that we must fear.

UNDERSTANDING THE COMPASSIONATE NATURE OF GOD

1. God is “rich in mercy” because of the great love that He has for us - Eph 2:4-5
2. God is merciful and gracious – Psalm 103:8
3. God is slow to anger and abounding in love – Psalm 103:8
4. He does not keep remembering our past sins or be angry with us forever – Psalm 103:9
5. He does not punish us as our sin deserves – Psalm 103:10
6. His mercies are new every morning – Lam 3:22-23
7. God is longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth – Exodus 34:6
8. God Keeps mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin – Exodus 34:7
9. God will never be partial in judgement. He will never clear the guilty - Exodus 34:7.
10. God sent Jesus and saved us from sin because of His mercies – Titus 3:5, 1 Peter 1:3
11. He keeps His covenant and mercy with those that love Him – Deut. 7:9

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF TAPPING INTO GOD’S MERCY

We can receive blessings from God, get to the next level, get divine healing and so on if we are able to tap into God’s mercy. Here are some people who were able to reap the dividends of tapping into God’s mercy:

1. **Blind Bartimaeus:** He received his sight after he asked Jesus to have mercy on Him – Mark 10:46-52
2. **A Leper:** Jesus, moved with compassion, healed a leper of Leprosy – Mark 1:40-42
3. **Lazarus:** When Jesus saw Mary, the sister of Lazarus weeping, he groaned in the Spirit, was troubled and even wept. He even kept groaning as he walked to the grave. Lazarus was brought back to life shortly after this – John 11:32-44

While in the Wilderness, Israel experienced God’s mercy on several occasions and instances. You too can be sure that as you go through the challenges of this life, you will experience the plenteous mercies of God in your life. The Patriarchs of old testified that it was only through the mercies of God that they were not consumed (Lam 3:22). In the Year 2025 and beyond, may this be your testimony. No matter the tribulations you face in life, you will surely make it by the mercies of God – Amen.



DAY 3: WEDNESDAY

TOPIC: JESUS THE MERCY OF GOD PERSONIFIED

TEXT: EPHESIANS 2:4-5 KJV

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved)"

Jesus is the face of God's mercy, because God is a God of love, mercy, and compassion who has sent His only Son into the World that we might be saved.

When the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:4-7).

Mercy is not just a concept to be emulated; mercy is the person of Christ. And if we are created in His image, mercy is part of the fabric of our being. To operate outside of mercy is to operate outside of Jesus and to operate outside of the purpose of our existence.

EVIDENCE OF GOD'S MERCY

1. **Jesus' mercy made a way for us:** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).
2. **Healing is found in the mercy of Jesus:** Though Jesus Christ is anointed to manifest the power of healing as stated in Acts 10:38, but most times He was driven by compassion (Matthew 20:34).
3. **Ministry of Compassion:** Acts of mercy and compassion defined Jesus' ministry - healing, forgiveness, acceptance etc.
4. **Jesus' Mercy is Unconditional:** Jesus did not judge the unclean as they approached Him. Jesus did not cast them away from Him as others might have. Jesus embraced the sinners, the hurting, the diseased, the outcasts etc showing that His mercy is unconditional.

Jesus desires to see us embrace His life and emulate Him. The only way we can be counted as righteous is to accept the truth that Jesus' act on the cross fulfills all requirements of the law.

Jesus' mercy moves us toward eternal salvation. Then a man with a serious skin disease came to Him and, on his knees, begged Him: "If You are willing, you can make me clean." Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out His hand and touched him. "I am willing," he told him. "Be made clean." (Mark 1:40-41). We are all like the leper in terms of sin and the degradation sin has on the way we live. Sin kills the soul and erodes the body. Sin is unclean. Without God, without His mercy, without Jesus, we have no chance. But Jesus knows we need His mercy to experience His grace and salvation, and He has given it to us generously.



DAY 4: THURSDAY
TOPIC: THE MERCY THAT HEALS
TEXT: MARK 10:46-52

“And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way” – Mark 10:46-52 (KJV)

The story in our text talks about Bartimaeus, a blind marginalised poor beggar, who experienced the transformative power of Jesus' mercy. His encounter with Jesus encapsulates the essence of divine mercy and its ability to bring holistic healing; physical, emotional, and spiritual. This narrative provides profound lessons about faith, perseverance, and the healing that flows from God's compassion. Despite his inadequacies and limitations, he was still able to capitalise on the opportunity when it presented itself. I want you to know that no matter the challenges we face in life, there is solution. But activating the solution is solely depended on our abilities to capitalise on divine encounters like Bartimaeus did. Let us see and learn from how he activated the healing dimension of God's mercy:

1. **Awareness of Need:** Awareness of need requires humility. Bartimaeus' cry was a humble acknowledgment of his need for help and inability to help himself. Mercy begins with the recognition of our inadequacy and a dependence on God's compassion. Many people remain in spiritual or emotional blindness because they fail to admit their brokenness. Recognising our need is the key to seeking God's intervention. Bartimaeus' actions teach us that spiritual and physical transformation begins with a deep realization of our own inadequacy and a confident turning to God for help. Take time to reflect on areas where you are blind or broken, whether spiritually, emotionally, or physically. Psalm 34:17-18: *“The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”*
2. **Faith in Jesus:** Faith in Jesus is the cornerstone of the Christian life. It is through faith that we connect with His saving power, experience His love, Mercy and live victoriously. Faith in Jesus means trusting Him as the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, and the one who has power to heal, restore, and guide our lives, Romans 10:9-10: *“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Bartimaeus declared his faith by identifying Jesus as the “Son of David,” acknowledging His messianic authority, identity and divine power. His faith was rooted in understanding who Jesus was and believing in His ability to heal. This faith became the foundation for his healing.
3. **Persistence Amid Opposition:** Despite being rebuked by the crowd, Bartimaeus cried out even louder, demonstrating his unwavering faith and desperation. This persistence reflects a deep trust in Jesus' mercy, undeterred by societal judgment or discouragement. Do not allow obstacles, discouragement, or the opinions of others to silence your pursuit of Jesus, Galatians 6:9 *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”* Persistence in seeking God does not go unnoticed because God honors those who persistently seek Him, even in the face of trials or discouragement (Luke 18:1-7). Bartimaeus' persistence stemmed from his faith in Jesus as the “Son of David,” the Messiah. His belief in Jesus' ability to heal and restore gave him the courage to continue calling out, regardless of the opposition.



4. **Specificity in Request (Clarity in Our Needs):** When Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted, the blind man responded with precision: *“I want to see”*. He didn’t ask for general help or vague assistance; he was specific in his request for healing. His clarity in asking showed that he knew what he needed, and he was fully trusting that Jesus had the power to provide It, 1 John 5:14-15. Being specific in our prayers means identifying our needs clearly and bringing them to God with confidence. Jesus, though knowing all things, invites us to express our desires explicitly, Philippians 4:6 *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”*.
5. **Expectancy in Faith:** Bartimaeus was not just specific in his request but also expectant that Jesus could and would heal him. His immediate healing after asking reflects the faith he had in Jesus’ ability to provide. Approach God with the expectation that He will answer, Proverbs 10:28. Expectancy is a posture of confidence, knowing that God’s response is on the way.

"The Mercy That Heals" is beautifully illustrated in the story of Bartimaeus. His encounter with Jesus reminds us that mercy is not earned but freely given to those who seek it with faith. It is a mercy that hears the cry of the broken, stops amidst the crowd, and restores not only sight but hope, purpose, and salvation.

As believers, we are invited to both receive this mercy and extend it to others. Just as Bartimaeus’ life was transformed by his encounter with Jesus, we too can experience and share the mercy that heals, bringing light and hope to a world in desperate need. Let us, like Bartimaeus, cry out in faith, knowing that the same Jesus who healed him is ready to heal us today.



DAY 5: FRIDAY

TOPIC: THE MERCY THAT TRIUMPH OVER JUDGEMENT

TEXT: JAMES 2:13

“For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.”

Man by Adamic origination stands in the place of judgement with our sinfulness (Psalms 51: 5), but God had constantly sent us mercy through every means possible. He began with the provision of animal skin as cover to the physical nakedness for Adam and Eve at their exit from the garden of Eden, to the sending of Noah to warn of a rise in world wickedness, to the deliverance of Lot's family from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah due to perversion, even to the sending of many prophets for admonitions and warnings (both major and minor). This offensive stand point gives the devil a hold to accuse us regularly before God. God Almighty did not at any point become tired of showing us mercy, rather He expanded the mercy from just the Jews who are His elect to the gentiles all over the world. This activated God's initial plan of total redemption and liberation as was set from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8).

God had always been a merciful father, hence, in His instruction to Moses on the design of the ark of covenant, the content was explicit – the law, the manna and the rod. When it comes to its position, in the tabernacle, it was placed under the mercy seat. This simply means that the law cannot stand where mercy is on top and the rod cannot act where mercy is on top - let us catch this revelation (mercy is always on top). The present events around the world shows that there is need for everyone to receive this mercy as well as give where it is in our power to do. The wave of respect for money, position, status, race and political inclination over the mercy is alarming. When we are good representative of our heavenly father, the mercy He had promised above all judgements will not elude us. To survive in this 2025, we must position ourselves for this mercy.

SOME WAYS TO POSITION YOURSELF TO BE OVERTAKEN BY MERCY

1. **Be Sober** – The woman caught in the act of adultery – John 8: 11
2. **Fear and reverence God** – The fear of God in the life of King Solomon helped him to access mercy to rule above all judgement – 1 Kings 3:9.
3. **Hear God** – The Word of God can and will always declare mercy over judgment (The people of Nineveh – (Jonah 3:1-10)
4. **Have Faith** – Faith in God attracts mercy and compassion (Matthew 15:21-28; Matthew 8:5-10)
5. **Care for others** – When you care for others especially the poor and needy, you are doing it unto the Lord (Proverbs 19:17; Matthew 25:31-40)
6. **Show mercy rather than vengeance** – You will obtain mercy if you show mercy unto others (Matthew 5:7; Hebrews 12:24; Genesis 4:10-11)

When Jesus died on the cross “Mercy gloried over judgment”. This means that mercy "boasts" against judgment, and that mercy wins when mercy and judgment seem to conflict. It is a converse of the statement in James 2:8, which says that the "royal law" is to love your neighbours as yourself. This is the difference between the blood of Abel and that of our Lord Jesus Christ.



DAY 6: SATURDAY

TOPIC: ATTRACTING THE MERCY OF GOD

TEXT: MATTHEW 5:7 KJV

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."

Mercy is a key component of God's character. It is His virtue that makes Him immortal. He is merciful and mighty. Those who love Him dearly are attached to His goodness through His tender mercies.

The mercy of God is often viewed as an expression of divine compassion, forgiveness, and love. It is the benevolent and gracious nature of the divine that extends kindness and forgiveness, even to those who may not deserve it by human standards.

Attracting the mercy of God is a necessity for any individual because of the richness and newness of His mercy. Attracting the mercy of God is a deeply personal and spiritual journey, often influenced by one's faith, beliefs, and practices

WAYS OF ATTRACTING THE MERCY OF GOD

5. **Genuine repentance:** Many believe that genuinely acknowledging and repenting for one's mistakes and wrongdoings is a critical step. This often involves a heartfelt confession and a commitment to change (Luke 15:15-21).
6. **Humility:** Demonstrating humility and recognizing one's need for divine help and guidance is seen as essential. This can be through prayer, meditation, or other forms of worship (2 Samuel 12:13).
7. **Seeking forgiveness:** Actively seeking forgiveness, not only from God but also from those ones may have wronged, is another important step (Psalms 51:1-3).
8. **Living a righteous life:** Striving to live a life that aligns with the teachings and principles of one's faith is believed to attract divine favor and mercy (Galatians 5:22-26).
9. **Regular worship and devotion:** Consistent participation in religious rituals, prayer, and other forms of worship shows devotion and a desire to maintain a close relationship with the divine (Psalms 25:1-7).
10. **Faith and Trust:** Consistent participation in religious rituals, prayer, and other forms of worship shows devotion and a desire to maintain a close relationship with the divine (Genesis 21:1-6).
11. **Acts of compassion and kindness:** Engaging in acts of charity, kindness, and compassion toward others is often viewed as aligning oneself with divine qualities, thereby attracting mercy (1 Samuel 24:1-22).

Attracting God's mercies comes first from the heart of loving Him and be willingly given to His service, obeying His commandments. David is one of the recipients of the mercies of God. Just as bees are attracted to flower causing pollination which brings forth fruits; David like other patriarchs of old gave countless testimonies of the mercies of God. He kept God first in every situation and made his boast in the name of the Lord.

Truly God reciprocates to mankind in the same kind as you extend to Him. Indeed, the scripture is clear that to the merciful, God shows himself merciful.

We are encouraged in the year 2025 to become models and advocates of mercies towards God and to fellow mankind. It is only by doing so that we shall be repaid with a greater measure of mercies from God, more so from humans. As plants flourish by the scent and rushing of water towards blossom, believers are encouraged to always demonstrate the love of God by keeping His commandments. This is the whole duty of God. God is good and His mercies endures forever. Amen



DAY 7: SUNDAY
TOPIC: SUSTAINED BY GOD'S ENDLESS MERCY
TEXT: LAMENTATION 3:22-23

"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness". Lamentation 3:22-23 (KJV)

The book of Lamentations is a profound expression of sorrow, mourning, and grief, written by the prophet Jeremiah. It reflects the devastation of the Israelites after the fall of Jerusalem, capturing their deep anguish and loss. Yet, in the midst of overwhelming despair, Lamentations 3:22-23 offers a powerful declaration of hope and restoration.

The word "sustained" holds a deep and powerful meaning in our walk with God. To be sustained means to be supported, upheld, and nourished through difficult circumstances. It carries the idea of endurance and the strength to continue moving forward even when the journey is long and hard.

Today, many of us are facing challenges that feel overwhelming, financial struggles, health crises, mental exhaustion, and a world gripped by fear and division. These difficulties can make us feel like we are being consumed by the weight of our circumstances. Yet, God keeps sustaining us with His endless mercy, reminding us that we are not alone in our suffering, and He will not allow us to be overtaken by it. He is with us.

- 1. Sustained by God's Great Love (The Foundation of Our Strength):** The unwavering love of God is our anchor in time of troubles. No matter how dark or heavy life's trials may seem, we are sustained by God's immeasurable love. His love for us is the reason we are not destroyed. It is the anchor that keeps us from drifting into despair, Romans 8:35-39. When we face hardship, whether it's health challenges, loss, or personal crises, God's love remains a constant support. We are not consumed because God's love protects, shields, and upholds us, Isaiah 43:1-4. No matter how hard life gets, remind yourself that you are sustained by God's love. It's the bedrock that gives you the strength to keep going.
- 2. Sustained by God's Never-Failing Compassion:** The word compassion in Lamentations 3:22 highlights God's deep empathy and care for His people. God's compassion never fails; it does not run out or diminish, even when we are at our lowest points. In fact, His compassion is often most fully revealed in the midst of suffering. When we are in pain, struggling, or feeling overwhelmed, God's compassion is there to carry us through. In today's world, it is easy to feel like God's compassion is distant or that He is indifferent to our pain, especially when it seems as though the world is spiralling out of control. Yet, this verse reminds us that no matter the severity of the trial, God's compassion is unchanging. His heart is always moved by our suffering, and He is deeply concerned about our well-being, Psalm 34:18 *"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*
- 3. Sustained by God's Daily Renewal of Mercy:** Another crucial element of God's sustaining power is His daily renewal of mercy. This implies that, every single day, God provides fresh mercy to sustain us in whatever we face. This daily renewal ensures that we are never without the strength and grace needed to keep going, 2 Corinthians 4:16 *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day"*. Start each day with the confidence that God's mercy has been renewed for you. Embrace the new day as a fresh opportunity to receive His sustaining grace.
- 4. Sustained by God's Great Faithfulness:** In the midst of suffering, it's easy to feel like God is distant or unfaithful, but the Bible consistently assures us that God is faithful. His faithfulness is an anchor for our souls, giving us confidence that He will not abandon us in our times of trouble. When we feel unsure of the future or overwhelmed by present circumstances, God's faithfulness reminds us that He is with us, guiding us, and providing for us through every challenge. His faithfulness is not contingent upon our performance or circumstances, it is rooted in His character and His covenant with us, 1 Cor. 10:13.



5. **The Sustenance of Hope and Perseverance:** In hard times, it's often not the absence of struggle that sustains us but the hope that God will provide the mercy and strength we need to persevere. When we feel like we are running on empty, we can find comfort in knowing that God's mercy will sustain us, even when we don't know how much longer we can hold on. His great love, compassion, faithfulness, and daily mercy are the spiritual nourishment that keep us going, even when the road ahead is uncertain, Isaiah 40:29-31.

The word sustained is not just about survival, it's about thriving in the midst of challenges through God's mercy. His great love, never-failing compassion, daily renewal of mercy, and unchanging faithfulness all combine to provide the sustenance we need to endure hardship and find hope in difficult times. Let us anchor ourselves in His mercy, knowing that He will not let us be consumed by the storms of life. With each new morning, He provides fresh grace and renewed hope, reminding us that His mercy is greater than any trial we face, Psalm 55:22.