

# Ps Key Unstoppable Mercy

Welcome to the start of our series One Prayer - where we are partnering with 1,000,000 people in 1,000 churches around the globe to:

SHARE - resources & teaching on each others platforms,  
GIVE - to gather funds together for church planting,  
SERVE - to love & serve the communities in which we live.

Under this One Prayer series we have our local serving campaign called "LOVE THIS CITY"

This going to be an awesome series because it is all about us displaying as Christ followers one thing Unstoppable MERCY

Or my alternate title is ***ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE***.

**Intro:** Jesus tells a powerful story in *Luke 10*, but for us to fully appreciate & understand what he is saying we need to understand the scene & characters involved.

**Scene:** It takes place on a road between two cities - a road that was notorious for criminal activity & violence.

1. *JERUSALEM* - the city of David & headquarters for the number one gang in town " THE JEWS"

2. *JERICO* - a popular city several miles north of where the Jordan River enters the Red Sea. It is a popular place for good reason.

- Joshua & the Israelites walked across on dry ground the second time God parted the waters through Elisha,
- Rahab the Prostitute rescued the 2 spies,
- Close by Elisha healed the poisonous water spring,
- Close by Elijah was taken up in whirlwind & chariot in front of Elisha who was waiting for his mantle,
- First City taken by Joshua when entering the promised land,
- It's where they marched around the city 6 times & then shouted on the 7th time and God caused the walls of Jericho to fall down,
- Jesus healed blind people in Jericho,
- Home of the Notorious Tax Collector Zachaus,

*Jericho is a place with a history.* It is the place to visit in fact it is the number one must see on the tourist attraction guide of things to do when visiting Jerusalem. Robbers & thieves knew that, so they use to wait on the road ready to rob & assault people as they made their way to check out Jericho. On this road they terrorized people as they made their way from Jerusalem to Jericho. The criminals knew that people who were heading down that way for a holiday would likely be cashed up & easy pickings. It was a notorious road & not different to our Surfers Paradise Mall today or Disneyland.. criminals are always out to prey on cashed up tourists.



So that sets the scene - but what about the CHARACTERS?

### PRIEST

- Offers prayers & sacrifices to God for the people,
- Led public worship in the tabernacle & then the temple,
- Teacher - of the LAW,
- Descendants of Aaron,

*Today - Jesus Christ is our High Priest Heb 8 -9 - and all of us are considered to be priests of God*

### LEVITE

- Tribe of Benjamin
- Set Apart for service in the sanctuary,
- Assistants to the Priest,
- Engaged in Teaching of the Law,

*Essentially this was the pastor of the big church down the road & one of his staff,*

### SAMARITAN

- Lived in the areas of Palestine,
- Only partly Jewish as a result of mixture,
- They had different ideas about worship to the Jews,
- The Jews hated them vehemently - 1/4 cast or 1/8 cast, **Eg** Aboriginals

*However Jesus appeared to love them & so did God. You see good Jewish boys never went into Samaria they would always walk around it as a city because the people were considered to be dogs, mutants & inferior. However Jesus under the Father's instruction by the Holy Spirit decides to not only go through Samaria but he actually stops to have a little chat with a Samaritan women as well.*

### VICTIM

- Someone who has fallen on hard times,
- Someone whom Jesus referred to as a *Neighbour*,

### Lets Read - the Story Luke 10:25 -37

WHY was the story being told?

A Man wanted to know what he must do to INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?

### Jesus answer was:

1. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind.
2. Love your Neighbour as yourself,

*This man was trying to figure exactly who he needed to show mercy to. He was hoping Jesus might quantify who his neighbour was. Surely Jesus wasn't talking about that immoral man I work with, or that friend a school who is normally picking on me, definitely not the person who lied & cheated and hurt me. It could be someone not like me? Jesus just exactly who are you talking about?*

So Jesus tells him a story using the kind of person that they hate the most, the one he would not be seen dead with. A *Samaritan*.



**A Lesson** - this is a lesson from Jesus to us all about not judging, and not trying to avoid difficult situations in life. He is warning us about choosing not to get involved in another's pain & mess. Jesus is making a huge statement here about the fact that we are all a part of the human race & God expects all of us to engage when a need presents itself.

Friends, God expects us all to be vessels of *Unstoppable Mercy to ALL*.

Look at the **Biblical Definition of MERCY.**

- Leniency
- Kindness,
- Tender Compassion,
- Pity in Action,
- A Pardon,



*Mercy is a form of love determined by the state or condition of it's objects. Their state is one of suffering & need, while they may be unworthy or ill deserving.*

It's showing more love & kindness to a person than he or she expects or deserves. **Eg** Jesus, how often do I have to forgive someone who wrongs me 7 times - no *Peter* 70 x 7 in a single day. Pete if you want to follow me you always have to extend mercy.

Mercy is Christian Grace urged towards ALL. The first thing you need to know is this:

**1. God Expects US ALL to show MERCY** - *Mic 6:8* - O man what is good and what does the Lord require of you? To act Justly, and to love Mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

The reason we exist on the planet to extend God's mercy toward others,

- *Mt 5:7* - blessed are the merciful for they shall be shown mercy. Mercy has a reward attached to it,
- *Rom 12:8* - talks about some having a gift of giving mercy over their lives & that is correct for some as it becomes the call of God over their life. However we all have a responsibility to show mercy to others anywhere it is needed,
- We are instructed to clothe ourselves with mercy,

*Warning also - in James 2:13 it says that judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

God is calling us to a live a life of Unstoppable Mercy

### **WHAT INSIGHTS CAN BE GLEANED?**

*Religious People will not engage* - like the priest & Levites.

#### **WHY:**

- Afraid of being polluted or infected by the world,
- Don't want to be seen to be associating with the wrong class or breed,
- It's a pride & image issue, All too messy! **EG** Married Couple & forgiveness,

*Samaritans will engage* - because know what it is like to be persecuted & left out. They know what it is like to be left out because of race & status. **Eg** Nehemiah - *Samaritans* were even excluded from re-building of the wall and it really ticked them off.

## HOW IS MERCY EVIDENCED IN THE LIFE OF GOOD SAMARITAN?

*Showing more love and kindness to a person than he or she expects or deserves.*

### **Mercy:**

- Flowed out of him
- He saw the victim - right eyes
- He took pity on him - right heart
- He dealt with fear of what others would think - courage
- He went to him - he "engaged"
- He bandaged his wounds - "got dirty" **eg.** Jesus Tax Collectors Party
- He parted with oil and wine - refresh and sanitize his wounds against infection - he committed his existing resources,
- He rented him a place to stay - he committed his existing finances
- He told the Innkeeper he was coming back soon - following thru to make sure he was OK
- When I get back if he owes you any more I will fix you up - now he is investing his future income,

*Unstoppable Mercy is extravagantly generous indeed!*

### **EG** This Week we are Showing Mercy (*Love This City*)

- Giving Blood.....x3 = ???lives saved
- Knitting Blankets for premi babies,
- Today down at the beach loving on the surfers and giving out church online cards,
- Backyard Blitz - helping with practical needs of those doing it a bit tough - Single mum with epilepsy,

*All of these things require:*

- Eyes to see
- Hearts to engage
- Willingness to get dirty
- Generous heart to share of our own resources

**To Love This City** - is to love the people of this city that are sometimes beat up and left for dead by the side of the road. Unstoppable Mercy

## SO WHO SHOULD WE EXTEND MERCY TO

- *Prov 12:10* - **Animals**
- *Zech7:9* - To **each other in the Body of Christ**. Look out for each other and notice when someone is looking a little beat up on the side of the road & engage.
- To those in **Distress and Trouble** (Good Samaritan)
- To the **Poor** - *Prov 14:31* "Those who oppress the poor show contempt for their maker and whoever is kind to the needy honours God"

*We think that here on the coast working with the poor & extending mercy is scary!! Let me show you what others have to deal with to extend mercy to the poor & down and out.*

Interview Tony—Working with the poor in Rhema Church Johannesburg - Business / Poor

Dangers associated with extraordinary mercy in other areas



- **Backsliders** - *Luke 15:19-20* - Prodigal Son

**Eg.** Who have fallen away (Executive is prayerfully working on a strategy to reach them and pick them off of the road and bring them home, healed & whole again.

## **RESPONSE**

Use to be close to God and drifted away and today you would like to renew your commitment to Christ

*First time* - Holy Spirit journey

*Prayer* - Freely you have received, now freely extend it to others.

## **Some of you may still be wondering who is my neighbour?**

*Answer is simple* - as you wander down the road of your life:

- Work
- School/Uni
- Hanging with friends at gym, sports clubs and the beach
- Doing your hobbies
- Working out at the gym
- Coffee Shops you frequent,

*You will come across people who are beat up by life on the side of the road. Maybe they have just received:*

- A health scare from the doctor
- Lost their job - economic climate
- Discovered their spouse has been unfaithful
- Filled with regret after poor choices in life,
- Dreams have turned into nightmares
- Painful divorce
- Just been released from jail
- Thrown out of home - no longer wanted by the new partner that has come into mum or dad's world

***They are lying by the side of the road of life*** everywhere and everyone just walks around them, shunning them - even the religious people walk away.

*May that never be said of someone who calls CCCLIVE.TV home - may we always extend mercy.*

**Friends**, every last soul down on their luck in life is a *neighbour* waiting for someone to extend mercy to them on God's behalf even if they don't deserve it.

*This is the mandate of every follower of Christ.*

## **Let's not forget what the driving force was behind this story.**

*It was a question posed to Jesus* - what must I do to *inherit eternal life*:

1. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind
2. Love your neighbour as yourself.



**Unstoppable mercy needs to be part of our DNA.** Because if we shut up our heart to needs of others, we too will have no-one to help us.

Remember what Jesus said to that group of people - "throw those useless servants out where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**WHY** - Because I was hungry - you never gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you never gave me something to drink, I was in jail and you never came and visited me to comfort me.

*But when did we not do this.* When you failed to do it to the least of one of these.....those falling by the roadside of life.

God wants to offer **ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE** through all his followers.

Let's stand and pray and believe our Father for **Unstoppable Mercy** to characterize our lives

