

Monday 5/19

Related Verses

Dan. 4:34-35

34 And at the end of those days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; For His dominion is an eternal dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation;

35 And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, But He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth; And there is no one who can resist His hand Or say to Him, What are You doing?

Isa. 64:8

8 But now, Jehovah, You are our Father; We are the clay; and You, our Potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.

Isa. 29:16

16 You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be considered to be like the clay, That what is made should say of him who made it, He did not make me, Or what is formed should say of him who formed it, He has no understanding?

Rev. 4:11

11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.

Rev. 5:13

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea and all things in them, I heard saying, To Him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever.

Eph. 1:4-5

4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Related Reading

“Sovereignty is...one of God’s attributes. He is sovereign. Sovereignty indicates God’s unlimited authority and power. God’s position is also unlimited. We are not able to say how high is God’s position. Likewise, we cannot measure God’s glory and majesty. As the sovereign One, there is no limit to His authority, power, and position. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 113)

[In Romans 9] Paul appealed to God’s sovereignty and asked, “But rather, O man, who are you who answer back to God? Shall the thing molded say to him who molded it, Why did you make me thus?” (v. 20). In the next verse Paul goes on to say, “Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?” Here Paul says that as the Creator, God has the sovereign authority to do whatever He likes. Who are we to argue with Him? We need to recognize that we are clay and that God is the Potter. He has the authority to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor. He has the authority to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor. He has the right to make vessels of wrath (v. 22) as well as vessels of mercy (v. 23).

In Romans 9:16 Paul says, “So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.” To be a vessel of mercy and of honor unto glory does not depend on our willing or our running but on God’s mercy to us. It is of God’s sovereign mercy that we are vessels of mercy. We were not the ones who decided to become vessels of mercy. God made this decision before we were born. Only because of God’s sovereignty are we able to say that we are vessels of mercy. In ourselves and of ourselves we have no right to say this. As the One with authority over the clay, the Potter has chosen to make us vessels of mercy. However, our confession that we are vessels of mercy is a proof that God has made us so.

God’s mercy is according to His will. In verse 18 Paul concludes, “He has mercy on whom He wills, and He hardens whom He wills.” We cannot explain why God has willed to show mercy to us. The only thing we

can say is that, according to God’s will, the mercy of God has been extended to us.

Furthermore, God’s mercy is in His sovereignty (vv. 20-23). The only thing we can say to explain God’s mercy to us is that in His sovereignty He has chosen to be merciful to us. Consider the case of Esau and Jacob. Who can say why God willed to choose Jacob and not Esau? All we can say is that in His sovereignty God chose the one and not the other. God’s selection is absolutely according to His sovereignty.

As those favored by God, we should not only thank Him for His mercy but also worship Him for His sovereignty. There are hymns on God’s mercy, but it is very difficult to find a hymn on God’s sovereignty...Along with Paul, we need to be brought to God’s sovereignty. Instead of reasoning with Him, we should say, “O Father God, I worship You for Your sovereignty. Although I am not worthy, in Your sovereignty You have willed to show me Your mercy.” Never presume to touch the sovereignty of God. Heed Paul’s warning when he asks, “Who are you who answer back to God?” (v. 20). If we realize that we are nothing more than clay, we shall not argue with God. Rather, we shall simply worship Him for His sovereignty. (*Life-study of Exodus*, pp. 231-233)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Exodus*, msgs. 21—22

Tuesday 5/20

Related Verses

Rom. 9:19-21

19 You will say to me then, Why does He still find fault? For who withstands His will?

20 But rather, O man, who are you who answer back to God? Shall the thing molded say to him who molded it, Why did you make me thus?

21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?

Exo. 33:19

19 And He said, I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of Jehovah before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

2 Tim. 2:20-21

20 But in a great house there are not only gold and silver vessels but also wooden and earthen; and some are unto honor, and some unto dishonor.

21 If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work.

Eph. 2:4

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Related Reading

We all have to realize who we are. We are God's creatures, and He is our Creator. As His creatures, we should not say anything to Him, the Creator...God is the Potter, and we are pieces of clay. As the Potter, God has authority over the clay. If He wills, He can make one vessel unto honor and another vessel unto dishonor. It does not depend on our choice—it depends on His sovereignty. (*Life-study of Romans*, p. 257)

Romans 9:21 discloses God's purpose in creating man. This verse is unique in its revelation of God's purpose in the creation of man. Without this verse it would be difficult for us to realize that God's purpose in creating man was to make him His vessel to contain Him. We all must thoroughly understand that we are God's containers and that God is our content. Second Corinthians 4:7 says that "we have this treasure in earthen vessels." We are earthen vessels, and God is the treasure and the content. God has sovereignly created us to be His containers according to His predestination.

Second Timothy 2:20-21 conveys the same thought, saying that we are vessels unto honor. So, we need to cleanse ourselves from dishonorable things that we may be sanctified and suitable for the Lord's use. However, being vessels unto honor is not the result of our choice; it originates with God's sovereignty. It is of God's sovereignty that He make His glory known by creating vessels of mercy to contain Himself. This is a deep word. God's sovereignty is the basis of His selection.

"What if God, wishing to demonstrate His wrath and make His power known, endured with much long-suffering vessels of wrath fitted for destruction" (Rom.

9:22). What should we say about this? We have nothing to say. He is the Potter, and He has the authority. Human beings are simply clay.

"In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory, even us, whom He has also called, not only from among the Jews but also from among the Gentiles?" (vv. 23-24). All depends upon God's authority. God has the authority to make us, whom He has selected and called not only from among the Jews but also from among the Gentiles, vessels of mercy to contain Him, that the riches of His glory may be made known, that is, manifested...We were predestinated by His sovereignty to be His containers, vessels of honor to express what He is in glory. This is not only a matter of His mercy but also of His sovereignty.

God's selection has a goal—to have many vessels to contain God and to express Him eternally...Yes, He loves us. However, His love is not only shown to save us but to make us His vessels. God created us in such a way that we are able to take Him into us and contain Him as our life and life supply, to the end that we be one with Him to express what He is and that He be glorified in us and with us. This is the eternal goal of God's selection. It is also our eternal destiny.

This portion of the Word also unfolds the climax of our usefulness to God, which is not to be used by Him as servants, priests, and kings but as vessels to contain Him and express Him. If we are to be used as God's vessels, surely He has to be one with us. We are His container and His expression; He is our content and our life. He lives in us that we may live by Him. He and we, we and He, eventually will be one both in life and in nature. This is the goal of His selection according to His sovereignty. It is also our destiny according to His selection, a destiny which will be fully revealed in the New Jerusalem. (*Life-study of Romans*, pp. 257-258)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Romans*, msgs. 22, 58

Wednesday 5/21

Related Verses**Matt. 9:13**

13 But go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice," for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

Heb. 4:16

16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

Luke 15:20, 22-24

20 And he rose up and came to his own father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him affectionately.

22 But the father said to his slaves, Bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

23 And bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry,

24 Because this son of mine was dead and lives again; he was lost and has been found. And they began to be merry.

Matt. 12:7

7 But if you knew what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice," you would not have condemned the guiltless.

Hos. 6:1

1 Come and let us return to Jehovah; For He has torn us, but He will heal us, And He has stricken us, but He will bind us up.

Related Reading

Mercy is the most far reaching of God's attributes. Mercy goes further than grace. God's love does not reach as far as His grace, and His grace does not reach as far as His mercy. If I am in a good condition and my standing matches yours, and you give me a gift, that is grace. But if I am in a pitiful condition and my standing is far removed from yours, and you give me something, that is mercy. If I come to you as your dear friend, and you give me a gift, that is grace. However, if I am a poor, unclean

Living under the Sovereignty of God and according to the Mercy of God

beggar, unable to do anything for myself, and you give me a gift, that is mercy...Grace extends only to a situation that corresponds to it. But mercy goes much further, reaching into a situation that is poor and unworthy of grace. According to our natural condition, we were far removed from God, totally unworthy of His grace. We were eligible only to receive His mercy. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 98)

It is God's mercy that has reached us. None of us was in a condition that corresponded to His grace. We were so poor and pitiful that there was the need for God's mercy to extend to our fallen condition. God's mercy has brought us into His grace. How we need to realize this and worship God for His mercy! Even now, after being saved and having shared in the riches of God's life, we still, in some ways, are in a condition that needs God's mercy to reach us. This is the reason Hebrews 4:16 says that first we need to receive mercy, and then we can find grace for timely help. Oh, how much we need God's mercy!...It is always God's mercy that qualifies us to participate in His grace.

Our concept is that the one who wills will gain what he wills to obtain and that the one who runs will gain what he runs after [cf. Rom. 9:16]. If this were the case, then God's selection would be according to our effort and labor. But it is not so. On the contrary, God's selection is of God who shows mercy. "We do not need to will or to run, for God has mercy on us. If we know God's mercy, we shall not put our trust in our effort. Neither shall we be disappointed by our failures. The hope for our wretched condition is in God's mercy.

Romans 11:32 says, "For God has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all." Man's disobedience affords God's mercy an opportunity, and God's mercy brings man salvation. How marvelous is God's mercy!

God's mercy and His grace are both the expression of His love. When we are in a pitiful condition, His mercy reaches us and brings us into a state where He is able to favor us with His grace. Luke 15:20-24 says that when the father saw the prodigal son returning, he had compassion on him. This is the deeper mercy, an expression of the father's affectionate love. Then the

father clothed his son with the best robe and fed him with the fattened calf. This is grace, which also manifests the father's love. God's mercy reaches further than His grace, bridging the gap between us and God's grace.

Often, because of our pitiful condition, we need to receive mercy before we can find grace. We come to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16) like beggars, in somewhat the same condition as was the prodigal son when he came to his father...When we come to the throne of grace, we may have the sense that we are pitiful and say, "Father, I am not worthy of anything." But the Father may say, "You are unworthy, but I am merciful. My mercy reaches you and qualifies you to receive My favor. My mercy brings Me to you that I may clothe you with the best robe." God's mercy is always available to us. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 98-99)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 10—11

Thursday 5/22

Related Verses**Rom. 9:15-16**

15 For to Moses He says, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."

16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

Heb. 4:16

16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

1 Peter 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 2:10

10 Who once were not a people but now are the people of God; who had not previously been shown mercy but have now been shown mercy.

Deut. 4:29

29 And from there you will seek Jehovah your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Isa. 55:6

6 Seek Jehovah while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.

Jer. 29:13

13 And you will seek Me and find Me if you search for Me with all your heart;

Related Reading

We need to worship God for His sovereignty. We should say, "Lord, I worship You for Your sovereignty because Your sovereignty reflects Your mercy. Lord, I am weak and sinful. Sometimes I am even rebellious. But I thank You, Lord, that my heart has been softened and is always willing to repent. Lord, I thank You for giving me such a soft heart."...If you know God's sovereignty, you will thank Him for His mercy. You will realize, even as you come to the meetings of the church, that you are under the Lord's sovereign mercy. Consider how many people are involved with sinful things or with worldly things. But we desire to come together in the Lord's presence, to listen to His word, to seek what is on His heart, and to practice being one with Him...Praise Him that we are under His sovereign mercy! (*Life-study of Exodus*, pp. 243-244)

It is of the Lord's mercy that we can attend the church meetings. Many of us can testify that the happiest nights of the week are the meeting nights... Praise the Lord that, according to His sovereign mercy, we can come together in the meetings!

The more we recognize God's sovereignty, the more grateful we shall be for His mercy. Hallelujah, God's mercy has been sovereignly bestowed upon us!...Sometimes we may be stubborn, but in the Lord's sovereign grace, we can be stubborn only for a short while. Then we repent, either to the Lord or to one we have wronged. This desire to repent is the Lord's mercy to us.

The morning is an excellent time for us to repent and make confession to the Lord. I thank the Lord that every morning we can have a new beginning. As we spend time with Him, we may realize that we have made mistakes. Then we repent, confess, and experience a genuine spiritual cleansing. What a mercy that we are willing to repent, to confess, and to be cleansed by the Lord!

In a time when so many are given to worldly entertainments, we have the desire to seek the Lord and to meet together in His presence. In God's sovereign mercy, our hearts have been inclined to Him. (*Life-study of Exodus*, pp. 244-245)

If we look back upon our past, we will worship the Lord...Before we were born, He selected us and predestinated us and arranged everything related to us, including the time and place of our birth. Moreover, He appointed all our days and all the places where we are to be. According to God's arrangement, I was born in the twentieth century. Furthermore, I was born in an area where it was easy to have contact with Christians. This was altogether of God...Everything that happens to us is a matter of divine mercy.

If we would properly serve God in the gospel of His Son, we must know that the gospel includes the selection of grace. The gospel is wholly a matter of God's sovereign mercy...Through many years of experience, I have become strongly and deeply convinced that everything that happens to us is of God. All is a matter of God's mercy. The more we see this, the more we will spontaneously bear our responsibility before the Lord.

Why is it that some believers are willing to bear their responsibility and that others are not? The answer lies in God's mercy. In Romans 9:15 Paul quotes the Lord's words, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy." Because of God's mercy in His selection of grace, we responded to the gospel when others did not respond; we received a word about Christ as our life when others refused to receive it; and we took the way of the Lord's recovery today when others drew back from taking this way. Some can testify that although they are in the Lord's recovery today, those who brought them to this way did not come this way themselves. (*Life-study of Romans*, pp. 591-593)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 110

Friday 5/23

Related Verses

Rom. 9:18, 23

18 So then He has mercy on whom He wills, and He hardens whom He wills.

23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,

Rom. 8:29-30

29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Rom. 9:11

11 Though the children had not yet been born nor had done anything good or bad (that the purpose of God according to selection might remain, not of works but of Him who calls),

Rom. 11:5, 30-32

5 In the same way then at the present time also there has come into being a remnant according to the selection of grace.

30 For just as you once disobeyed God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience,

31 So these also now have disobeyed, so that because of the mercy shown to you they also now may be shown mercy.

32 For God has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all.

Related Reading

Regarding His recovery, God has mercy on whomever He will have mercy. We are not in the Lord's recovery because we are more intelligent than others or because we seek the Lord more than others do. Our being here is altogether due to the mercy of God. If you consider how the Lord brought you into the church life in the Lord's recovery, you will worship Him for His

mercy. I believe that we in the Lord's recovery are among the remnant according to the selection of grace (Rom. 11:5). Regarding the gospel, the ministry of life, and the church life in the Lord's recovery, God has had mercy upon us. How we must praise Him for His sovereign mercy! (*Life-study of Romans*, p. 593)

We should have no trust in ourselves, and we should not think we are here because of anything that we are or that we have done...What a mercy that we are saved and that we are willing to take the Lord's way! Furthermore, it is a mercy that we are willing to be separated from today's evil age. The world is both attractive and attracting. Nevertheless, I can testify that I simply have no appetite for the things of the world. I am covered with a kind of divine insulation, an insulation that keeps me from the world system. This is another aspect of God's mercy.

If we would serve the Lord, we must know the Spirit, the life in the Spirit, and the righteousness of God. Furthermore, we must know God's mercy in the selection of grace...I look to the Lord that He will deeply impress us with the matter of His mercy in selecting us. Do not put your trust in what you are able to do or in what you plan to do. Rather, bow down before the Lord and worship Him for His mercy. The more you worship the Lord for His mercy, the more you will be uplifted. Instead of striving to bear responsibility, you will find that, in His mercy, the Lord is bearing you. We all need to know the Lord in this way. What a mercy that He has selected us, predestinated us, called us, and placed us in His recovery! For our future we trust not in ourselves but in Him and in His marvelous mercy. Everything regarding us has been initiated by the Lord. All is of Him; nothing is of us. I can testify that the more we worship God for His mercy, the more we are deeply in His heart and the more we are one with Him.

Do not strive to bear responsibility. Instead, worship God for His selection. If you do this, He will bear you in the bearing of responsibility. The more we try in ourselves to be responsible, the more we will suffer inwardly. Our inward taste will be that of bitterness. But if we worship the Lord for His mercy and experience Him bearing us in bearing the responsibility, our inward

taste will be as sweet as honey. One reason I am happy day by day is that I have learned to trust in the Lord's mercy and to worship Him for it. Years ago I used to ask the Lord to do so many things for me. But now I pray by thanking Him for His mercy. He said that He will have mercy on whomever He will have mercy and compassion on whomever He will have compassion. If we enjoy the Lord's mercy and worship Him for His selection, we will be in the heavenlies.

Our going on with the Lord is a matter not of our willing or running but of God's mercy. Our willing is of no avail, and our running is in vain. God's mercy, however, works in a wonderful way. We are changeable, constantly fluctuating. It seems that, as far as we are concerned, our spiritual condition is like weather that is unstable. Hence, we need to see that the selection of grace does not depend on us but depends on God's selection of us before the world began. What we are experiencing today is related to God's selection in eternity past. If we see this, we will turn our eyes away from ourselves and from our circumstances and gaze steadfastly upon Him. (*Life-study of Romans*, pp. 593-594)

Further Reading: *CWWN*, vol. 28, "The Gospel of God," ch. 2

Saturday 5/24

Related Verses

Eph. 2:4-5

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

Rom. 11:32

32 For God has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all.

Matt. 9:13

13 But go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice," for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

Mark 5:19

19 And He did not allow him, but said to him, Go to your house, to your own people, and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.

Titus 3:5

5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Isa. 45:8

8 Drip down, O heavens, from above, And let the clouds flow down righteousness; Let the earth open And bring forth salvation and righteousness; Let them spring forth together; I, Jehovah, have created it.

Related Reading

[Romans 9] reveals the principle that everything depends on God's mercy. The apostle applies this principle to the Israelites. He shows us that everything that happened to the Israelites was of God's mercy.

Zeal and pursuit are of no use. Neither is the absence of zeal and pursuit of any use. Waiting too long, not waiting long enough, being too quick, or not being too quick—none of these is of any use...Everything depends on the mercy of God. Only the Holy Spirit is able to lead men to a proper standing. There must be at least one time that a person sees God's mercy...Whether we see this matter all at once or realize it through a process, the minute we touch this matter, we touch the fact—not a feeling but the fact—that everything depends on God's mercy. (*CWWN*, vol. 57, "The Resumption of Watchman Nee's Ministry," p. 3)

God's mercy is a fact. A fact is not dependent on feeling. Take the matter of regeneration as an example. We often tell sinners that they must have a one-time definite experience of repentance and believing in the Lord...It is the same in principle in regard to man's understanding of God's mercy. There must be at least one time when a person definitely touches God's mercy.

Three kinds of people need God's dealings: those who are strong in their will, those who are strong in their emotion, and those who are strong in their mind...[The will, the emotion, and the mind] must experience God's breaking. God deals with man's strong points more than He deals with his weak points. Man's strong points often hinder him from spiritual progress even more than his

weak points. Unless a man is dealt with in these three areas, he cannot know God's mercy.

After a man has been dealt with by God, he will be tempered in his spiritual life...Some people wait too long, and others do not wait long enough...Some people are not strong enough in their inner man; their outer man is too strong...Some people are too strong in their mind. Others are too strong in their emotion or their will...These conditions require tempering.

If we want our spiritual life to be well tempered, we need to attune our condition to a proper balance. We must neither be too much nor be too little. This can be compared to shooting on a pinball machine; there are pins to the left and to the right, and the balls must be directed at the optimum angle before they can score. There are many pitfalls in our spiritual journey; our mind, emotion, and will can all become hindrances to us. If we are too much or too little, we fall into danger.

Everything depends on God's mercy. Before I was saved, I planned to go to America. If I had left two months earlier, I would not have met Sister Dora Yu, and I might never have been saved. Even if I had been given the chance later, I might not have believed. It was God's mercy that I met Miss Dora Yu at that time. It was neither too early nor too late.

Only God can do things in just the right proportion. We are prone to speak either too much or not enough. No one can preach a message that will meet everyone's need. Even the apostle Paul and the apostle Peter faced the same problem. When words come out of a person's mouth, it is difficult for the words to come out just right. This is why it is easy for people to misunderstand.

The way of the church during the past two thousand years is a way of looking to the mercy of God. Only God's mercy can temper us. I have often told the young people that they may have to wait for five years before they will realize that everything is of God's mercy. (*CWWN*, vol. 57, "The Resumption of Watchman Nee's Ministry," pp. 3-6)

Further Reading: *CWWN*, vol. 57, "The Resumption of Watchman Nee's Ministry," ch. 1

Lord's Day 5/25

Related Verses

Luke 10:25-37

25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?

26 And He said to him, What is written in the law? How do you read it?

27 And he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole strength and with your whole mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

28 And He said to him, You have answered correctly; do this, and you shall have life.

29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor?

30 Jesus, taking up the question, said, A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who having both stripped him and beaten him, went away, leaving him half dead.

31 And by coincidence a certain priest was going down on that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

32 And likewise also a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the opposite side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, who was journeying, came upon him; and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion;

34 And he came to him and bound up his wounds and poured oil and wine on them. And placing him on his own beast, he brought him to an inn and took care of him.

35 And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, Take care of him; and whatever you spend in addition to this, when I return, I will repay you.

36 Which of these three, does it seem to you, has become a neighbor to him who fell into the hands of the robbers?

37 And he said, The one who showed mercy to him. And Jesus said to him, Go, and you do likewise.

Hymn: #26

1 God, we praise Thee for Thy mercy,
 'Tis so great and so profound!
 In our weakness and our failures;
 With its greatness it abounds.
 We adore Thee! we adore Thee!
 With such mercy we've been crowned!

2 How we marvel at this mercy
 So far-reaching and so vast!
 It has reached us, e'en the sinners,
 And will ever hold us fast.
 From this mercy, from this mercy,
 What can cause us to be cast?

3 For Thy mercy we are grateful,
 'Tis so rich, so plenteous!
 Thru Thy mercy in redemption,
 Thou hast richly favored us.
 If without this, if without this,
 How could we be favored thus?

4 Oh, Thy mercy, so inspiring!
 Gentle, tender, dear and sweet!
 With Thy patience and Thy kindness,
 Us in all our need it meets.
 It we treasure, it we treasure,
 Nothing can with it compete.

5 Father, we enjoy Thy mercy,
 Ever fresh and ever new;
 Every morning shed upon us,
 It refreshes as the dew.
 How we taste it! how we taste it!
 Giving Thee the praises due.

6 We can never cease to praise Thee,
 As Thy mercy e'er endures;
 All Thy grace and all Thy favor,
 Ever for us it secures.
 Trusting in it, trusting in it,
 Thy sure mercy us assures.

Churchwide Truth Pursuit of Genesis**Level 1—Sequential Life-study Reading**

Scripture Reading and Copying: Gen. 14

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg(s). 29-30

Level 2—Topical Study

Crucial Point: God's Judgment on Man in the First Fall

Scripture: Gen. 3:16-24

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg(s). 21

Supplemental Reading: *God's Eternal Intention and Satan's Counterplot*, ch. 3; *The Tree of Life*, ch. 9; *Truth Lessons, Level Two, Vol. 1*, ch. 2; *Revelations in Genesis: Seeing God's Way of Salvation in Man's Fall*, ch. 4

Questions: See the church website at

churchinnyc.org/bible-study

Further Reading:

Life-study of Romans, msg 58