

# The Father of Mercies

## Scripture:

II Corinthians 1:1-4 *“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia: <sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”*

## Introduction:

Sign tacked on a tree near a convent: "No trespassing; violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law--Sisters of Mercy."

Our god is a God of mercy. The word translated mercies here come from a greek word meaning to have compassion by word or deed, specifically by divine grace. This indicates that God speaks compassionate words to us and works compassionately in our lives. Today's scripture indicates that God's mercy brings comfort to us and enables us to be merciful and bring comfort to those around us.

## I. The mercy of God.

A. God's mercy given in our times of distress.

Deuteronomy 4:30-31 *“When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice <sup>31</sup>(for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.”*

B. God always moves with mercy when we call upon Him.

Psalm 86:5 *“For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.”*

## II. His mercy is eternal.

Psalms 103:17-18 *“But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, <sup>18</sup>To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them.”*

A. God's mercies never end.

B. Something eternal means that before we were, it was, and after we're gone it still will be.

## III. His mercy is boundless.

Psalms 108:4 *“For Your mercy is great above the heavens, And Your truth reaches to the clouds.”*

A. Can you reach to the heavens without any form of aid.

B. Mercy is so important to God that He rewards the merciful.

Matthew 5:7 *“Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.”*

## IV. His mercy is consistent.

Lamentations 3:22-24 *“Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. <sup>23</sup>They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup>“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I hope in Him!”*

## V. His mercy encourages us to repent.

Joel 2:12-13 *“Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” <sup>13</sup>So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the*

*LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm."*

**VI. His mercy brings forgiveness of sin.**

Micah 7:18-19 *"Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. <sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea."*

In the days of the Revolutionary War there lived at Ephrata, Pennsylvania, a Baptist pastor by the name of Peter Miller who enjoyed the friendship of General Washington. There also dwelt in that town one Michael Wittman, an evil-minded man who did all in his power to abuse and oppose this pastor. One day Michael Wittman was involved in treason and was arrested and sentenced to death. The old preacher started out on foot and walked the whole seventy miles to Philadelphia to plead for this man's life. He was admitted into Washington's presence and at once begged for the life of the traitor. Washington said, "No, Peter, I cannot grant you the life of your friend." The preacher exclaimed, "He is not my friend--he is the bitterest enemy I have." Washington cried, "What? You've walked seventy miles to save the life of an enemy? That puts the matter in a different light. I will grant the pardon." And he did. And Peter Miller took Michael Wittman from the very shadow of death back to his own home in Ephrata--no longer as an enemy, but as a friend.