

Miracle Of Mercy: 7 of 8  
“God Can Use Anybody”  
Cornerstone Church of Poway  
Pastor Ed Turley  
June 2, 2019

Sermon Teaching

“God made you **alive** with Christ, for **He forgave all our sins**. He **canceled** the record of the charges against us and took it away by **nailing** it to the cross.”  
**Colossians 2:13b-14 (NLT2) Remember Verse**

**Big Idea:** To Value God’s Mercy, I Must Understand The Cost Of The Cross

“You know what I **was** like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it.” **Galatians 1:13 (NLT2)**

**God Can Use Me When:**

**1. I Remember It’s All Because \_\_\_\_\_**

“Therefore, since **God in His mercy** has given us this new way, **we never give up.**” **2 Corinthians 4:1 (NLT2)**

“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do **His work**. He considered me **trustworthy** and appointed me to **serve** him, even though **I used to blaspheme** the name of Christ. In my insolence, I **persecuted** His people. **But God had mercy on me** because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He **filled me** with the **faith** and **love** that come from Christ Jesus.” **1 Timothy 1:12-14 (NLT2)**

“This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to **save sinners**”—and **I am the worst of them all**. But God had **mercy** on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime **example** of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, **can** believe in Him and **receive** eternal life.” **1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. I Remember It’s \_\_\_\_\_**

“We **reject all shameful deeds** and underhanded methods. We don’t try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the **truth** before God, and all who are honest know this.” **2 Corinthians 4:2 (NLT2)**

“You see, we don’t go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We now have

this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is **from God**, not from ourselves.” **2 Corinthians 4:5-7 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. I Use My Pain To \_\_\_\_\_**

“We are **pressed** on every side by troubles, but we are **not crushed**. We are **perplexed**, but not driven to **despair**. We are **hunted down**, but **never abandoned** by God. We get **knocked down**, but we are **not destroyed**.”

**2 Corinthians 4:8-9 NLT2**

“Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the **life of Jesus** may also be **seen in our bodies**. Yes, we live under **constant danger** of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be **evident** in our dying bodies. So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in **eternal life** for you.”

**2 Corinthians 4:10-12 (NLT2)**

“All of this is for your benefit. And as **God’s grace** reaches more and more people, there will be **great thanksgiving**, and God will receive more and more glory. **That is why we never give up**. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being **renewed** every day. For our present troubles are **small** and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!”

**2 Corinthians 4:15-17 (NLT2)**

“So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we **fix our gaze** on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will **last forever**.” **2 Corinthians 4:18 (NLT2)**

“God chose things the world considers **foolish** in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are **powerless** to shame those who are powerful.” **1 Corinthians 1:27 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **Am I willing to go “all in” for Jesus?**

**My next right step, I will let God’s mercy use me by:**

- Serving at Kid’s Camp June 17-21, 8:30 am-12:00 pm
- Accepting Jesus as my personal Savior
- Recommitting my life to follow Jesus
- Dedicating my child/family on June 16
- Going public with my faith in Believer’s Baptism July 7

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[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.]

**Big Idea:** To Value God’s Mercy, I Must Understand The Cost Of The Cross

**Open your group with a prayer.**

**Icebreaker:**

When you were a kid, who was the bully in school? How did you handle it?  
Did they ever change?

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**Family Corner:** [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it to 12 minutes or less.]

**God Can Use Me When:**

**1. I Remember It’s All Because Of His Mercy**

**Read Galatians 1:13, 1 Timothy 1:12-16 & 2 Corinthians 4:1**

Why doesn’t Paul try to hide the fact that he was such a terrible person?

What is Paul trying to highlight? His failures or God’s mercy?

What was Jesus’ purpose for coming to this world?

Who can you be an example by sharing your story of faith?

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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**2. I Remember It’s Not About Me**

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:2-7**

Why is Paul careful about how the message of Jesus is preached?

Explain the difference of preaching about ourselves and preaching about Jesus:

What is the point of the analogy of clay jars?

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. I Use My Pain To Help Others Know Jesus**

#### **Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-18**

If Paul is trying to encourage people to put their faith in Jesus, why does he share all his hardships?

How can the life of Jesus be seen in our bodies? Our experiences?

What was the result of Paul's difficult experiences? Vs. 12

What motivates Paul to keep going? Vs. 15-17

What is his perspective? Vs. 17-18

#### **Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-27**

Why do you think God uses the "foolish and powerless" things of this world instead of the "perfect and polished"?

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.**

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