

# Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. • Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Services are live-streamed to our website: [oakswestchurchofchrist.com](http://oakswestchurchofchrist.com)

JULY 7, 2024

## Mercy is Fundamental

by Ken Weliever

In his book *Experiencing God's Forgiveness*, Luis Palau, tells a story about a mother who once approached Napoleon seeking a pardon for her son.

The emperor replied that the young man had committed a certain offense twice and justice demanded death.

"But I don't ask for justice," the mother explained. "I plead for mercy."

"But your son does not deserve mercy," Napoleon replied.

"Sir," the woman cried, "it would not be mercy if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask for."

"Well, then," the emperor said, "I will have mercy." And he spared the woman's son.

Like grace, mercy is fundamental to our faith. To our relationship with the Lord. And to one another.

The words "mercy" or "merciful" are found over 300 times in the Bible. It expresses the character of God, is demonstrated in the life of Christ, and is a Divine quality, we are called upon to practice in all our relationships.

Mercy is rooted in compassion, expressed in kindness, and extends forgiveness. Mercy identifies with the victim, empathizes with their plight and acts to do something about it. You see, mercy is more than just pity. It's more than a feeling. And it's not the same as grace. Mercy is compassion for people in need. Richard Lenski makes this distinction; "The noun (mercy) always deals with what we see of pain, misery and distress, that results of sin and (grace) always deals with the sin and guilt itself. The one extends relief, the other pardon; the one cures, heals, helps, and the other cleanses and reinstates.

John R. W. Stott offered this insight. "Mercy is compassion for people in need." God's mercy met the needs of people whether in offering salvation, or clemency. Isaiah proclaimed, "For the LORD has comforted His people, And will have mercy on His afflicted" (49:13).

Mercy is a plea often expressed by David in the Psalms when he cried, "Be merciful to me, O God" (Ps. 57:1). The Psalmist could pray in assurance because he knew God was "great in

### Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends. We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

### Important Dates

**Summer Series** - Bulverde church of Christ is having their summer lesson series each Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.

**Song Practice** - July 14 at 4:15 p.m.

**If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.**

mercy.” In Psalm 103:11 he offered this analogy and declaration.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;

The Bible is replete with examples of mercy.

Mercy is found on the Jericho road when a Samaritan felt compassion for a hurting man, bandaged his wounds, and aided in his recovery (Lk. 10:25-37).

Mercy forgave the prodigal son of his insolent attitude, wasteful habits and sinful lifestyle (Lk. 15:11-32).

Mercy healed ten lepers of a dreadful disease that made them outcasts of society (Lk. 17:11-19).

Mercy restored sight to two blind men who cried, “Son of David, have mercy on us (Matt. 9:27-31).

Mercy forgave the thief on the cross and promised him a Paradise home (Lk. 23:39-42).

Mercy withholds the punishment we deserve (Eph. 2:4; Jas. 2:13).

There is no greater need and no nobler virtue than the quality of mercy. Jesus, the “merciful and faithful High Priest” (Heb 2:11), calls us to be merciful. In His Mountain Message He said, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”

Today, we need more Divine mercy and less hypercritical judgment in our homes, in our churches, and in society in general. Our world is filled with hurting people. Helpless people. Sick people. And sinful people. They need mercy.

Our ministry to “the least of these,” whom Jesus identified in Matthew 25:31-46, require our mercy. Our care. Our compassion. Our attention. Our help.

May the plea of Jesus ring in our ears. “Be merciful, just as your Father in heaven is merciful” (Lk. 6:36).

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## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson’s** injured his tongue and had stitches.

**Dinah Williams** continues to have mobility issues and has been ill the last few days.

**Don Simmons** is at home and still on constant oxygen.

**Debbie McMurray** is doing well but will require regular testing.

**Terry Behrns** is recovering at his sister’s home

**Jay Parker’s father** has cancer and they have been traveling to help him.

**Jimmy Stinnett** is struggling from his leukemia and is under treatment.

**Judy Trammel** has had several falls recently and is in significant pain.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

*“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”* (Ephesians 6:18)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

### Evangelist

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### Elders

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