

Make Room for Your Neighbor Mercy

Pastor Craig Sweeney | March 15, 2026

Thread: When we join God in His move, it often requires Mercy along with Faith.

What is faith? "...faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." **Hebrews 11:1 NASB**

MERCY is: "Compassion, extending help for the consequences of sin. Active desire to remove misery."

*"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things." **Matthew 23:23 NLT***

Jesus just made a declaration about His followers, His Church.

- We are meant to fill the storehouse, so that His church will be a refuge to those in NEED.

*"Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?'" **Matthew 18:32-33 NLT***

We are a people having received MERCY.

- The Church is meant to be a place that extends mercy, not just in spiritual matters, but tangible as well.

"I am the Lord, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed. Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my decrees and failed to obey them. Now return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies."

Malachi 3:6-7a NLT

This is mercy in action.

*"But you ask, 'How can we return when we have never gone away?' Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me!'
But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?'
You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. You are under a curse..." **Malachi 3:7b-9a NLT***

God is withholding His blessing and favor.

- I don't want to be limited by those rules of PROVISION.
"...for your whole nation has been cheating me. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple."

Malachi 3:9b-10a NLT

I have committed to feeding those who come to me.

- God's plan in the Old and New Testament to financially provide for His PEOPLE, the church, begins with the TITHE.

I set my plan in motion where I give you enough.

- To provide for your family
- To give back to the Storehouse
- For others to be fed
- For yourself to be fed when in need
- To store away a surplus for the future

*"If you do,' says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, 'I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in!..." **Malachi 3:10b NLT***

"...Try it! Put me to the test! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe,' says the LORD of Heaven's Armies."

Malachi 3:10c-11 NLT

- Tithing is a FAITH MECHANISM so we may JOIN GOD's work in our generation.

Challenge:

- 30-day challenge - Pray our need is met.
- Pray about your part in this.
- Pledge card

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit DougBrittonBooks.com/resource.

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