

# Touchstones Theme: Mercy



Compelled to choose between short term and long term, I would (all things being equal) favor the long term. One reason: The long term always includes the short term, whereas short-term thinking (as the history of greed in ... America ...demonstrates) does not

always provide for the long term.

Compelled to choose between justice and mercy, I would (all things being equal) stick with mercy, which to me speaks of love and compassion. One reason: I can imagine a world so full of love that justice, as we now know it, would no longer be necessary. But I cannot imagine a world so full of justice that there would no longer be any need for love. Given only one choice, I would take love. *Rushworth M. Kidder*

We don't flower in faith because we are perfect or accomplished. We grow faithfully through our struggles, our imperfections, our practices, our misses, our failures, and our trying again. We grow faithfully transcending what holds us back and twists us away from mercy, forgiveness, love, and generosity. Humility requires transcending vanity, while still having a strong sense of self-worth. Generosity requires transcending fear and growing in trust and good-will. Forgiveness requires transcending vengeance, while holding still to loving accountability and radical acceptance. Every human trait that is considered spiritually positive demands our living practice every day. The way to transcendence is right through the muck and mire, trampling over carefully created schedules and being ready to give a whole-hearted "yes!" when asked. *Rev. Naomi King*



## Join us in exploring Mercy

**Photo Credits** (top to bottom)

- ◆ The Good Samaritan, photo by falco from Pixabay
- ◆ In the Mud, photo by Ben Kerckx from Pixabay