

Attitude #5 - Merciful

Jesus said: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Matthew 5:7

I humbly ask God's forgiveness for my sinful past.

I am able to forgive those who have hurt me.

By definition:

- Forbearance to inflict harm under circumstances of provocation, when one has the power to inflict it; compassionate treatment of an offender or adversary; clemency.
- Compassionate treatment of the unfortunate and helpless; A blessing regarded as a manifestation of compassion or favor.

2 Corinthians 1:3 - The Father of mercies and the God of all comfort.

The bible has much to say about mercy -

For his mercies are great (**2 Sam. 24:14**), God's is abundant in mercy (**Ps. 86:5**), God's mercy endures forever (**Ps. 106:1**) God's mercy is great (**Ps. 108:4**), Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed (**Lam 3:23**), They are new every morning (**Lam. 3:23**), For He is gracious and merciful (**Joel 2:13**), His mercy is on those that fear him (**Luke 1:50**), He is rich in mercy (**Ep. 2:4**), According to His mercy He saved us (**Tit. 3:5**).

Biblical example of mercy

Matthew 20:29-34 - And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him. 30 And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. 31 And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. 32 And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you? 33 They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. 34 So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

1. Vs. 29,30 - A cry for mercy. **And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him. 30 And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.**



Consider the following verses:

Psalm 4:1 - Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.

Psalm 6:2 - Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed.

Psalm 9:13 - Have mercy upon me, O LORD; consider my trouble which I suffer of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death:

Psalm 25:16 - Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted.

Psalm 27:7 - Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

Psalm 30:10 - Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me: LORD, be thou my helper.

Psalm 31:9 - Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly.

The requests in the previous verses are all based upon the knowledge of those that are crying out to God, that God is a God of mercy. There are some different details with regard to their request, but the basis of every request is an appeal for the mercy of God. There are no notions of telling God how He should answer, nor do we see any requests based on the merit of those making the request....they simply wish to receive the mercy of God and all that follows will be based upon the fact that God is a God of mercy and able to grant their request.

When we cry out to God it is important that we see God as the Bible teaches that He is. We do not come to God on any merit of our own because we do not have any merit to do so. However, when we come to God based on what the Bible teaches us about Him, that He is a God of mercy, we can then approach Him with calm assurance knowing that we will receive mercy when we ask for it.

Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.



For our consideration: The receiving of God's mercy concerning our sin may not always include the absence of consequences. We can receive mercy, but we may sometimes need God's grace to help us through the struggles of the consequences.

2. Vs. 31 - A demand for silence. And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.

When we cry out to God, we can expect hindrances and discouragements from within and from without. God's timing will always be perfect, but it may sometimes **appear** like He is late. "He may not come when you want Him, but He'll be there right on time!!"

Sadly, these poor men were rebuked by the multitude that followed Christ, which might just point to the fact that some of these followers may have been following Him for the wrong reasons. Whenever you take a stand, declare your dependence upon the Lord and cry out to Him, there may be those that are skeptical and critical of you for doing so. I cannot for the life of me find any valid reason for these people hindering the blind men from crying out to Jesus, because there is no valid reason, but in their mind, they must think themselves doing something good when they are in fact doing something wrong.

As we said, there may not be any valid reasons but that does not mean there are no reasons at all. Perhaps there were some that thought they could have a relationship with Jesus for their own personal gain while thinking others were not as deserving as they thought themselves to be. Or perhaps there were some who thought it a great advantage to be "seen" with Jesus while thinking that the lower people of society were somehow less important to Christ than they were. Whatever the case, they were standing on shaky ground obstructing the mercy of God upon these two blind men and so are we if we are so foolish to do the same.

Romans 14:19 - Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

3. Vs. 32 - A standing offer. And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you?

"Jesus stood still and called them." Jesus could have healed them from a distance like he had done in other cases. We cannot be certain why He called them, but we do know that when He did, He questioned them concerning their request. We might think at first that this is a strange



question because anyone could see what their need was. Jesus also knew well enough, but He wanted to hear it from them.

Philippians 4:6 - Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

As Paul said, we should in everything make our requests known to God, not to inform Him, because He knows what we need, but to qualify ourselves for the request by asking (**James 4:3**).

4. Vs. 33,34 - An accepted request. They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. **34 So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.**

- He had mercy.
- He touched their eyes.
- They receive their sight.
- They follow Him.

They made the best of the mercy of Jesus. The best evidence of spiritual enlightenment and gratitude for mercy is a consistent devotion to Jesus Christ.

What is all this a picture of?

It is a picture of the pity of God.

- Misery is the object of mercy.

Luke 1:78,79 - Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, 79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

- It is a picture of the power of God.

What Jesus did..... He did it easily and He did effectively.

