

Blessed - Vessels of Mercy

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

Matthew 5:7

“Mercy brings relief from sin's misery. Mercy then, along with its synonym compassion, is the quality that moves a person to respond to the sin, the misery, the suffering, the pain of others in order to relieve it... Do you have compassion toward those suffering? And does it move you to pray for them and then to seek to relieve their suffering? This is what the believer's practice of mercy looks like.” Pastor Tom Pennington

***Praise Prayers** ~ *Eternal Father and everlasting God, Your mercy is a treasure of divine wealth for empty vessels. Our souls are deeply moved by knowing that You sent Your Son away from heaven and moved Him into a world of sinners and their sin. What joy fills our hearts to know how willingly our Savior came down to rescue those on whom You had pity. You saw our miseries. Instead of being repulsed by our desperate condition, You showed us new mercies each morning, and Your compassions continue to be fresh. The quality of Your character moves You to respond to Your creatures' sin, misery, suffering, and pain. Love leads grace, and love leads mercy. Your Fatherly heart reaches down to love and help Your rescued, adopted child. We rejoice that Your divine mercy is measured by Your perfect sovereign will. You are rich in mercy and have loved us with great love. Help us to praise You in the way that You deserve, as we delight in focusing on the mercy of our blessed Father, our Lord Jesus, and Your Holy Spirit.*

***Nehemiah 9:19 NKJ** ~ **Yet in Your manifold mercies You did not forsake them in the wilderness.**

The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, to lead them on the road; nor the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way they should go.

Our Father, You reveal the varied acts of Your mercy in so many ways. Mercy stays and does not forsake. Mercy is the oil poured into our wounds. Mercy shows us the way when we are lost and relieves our suffering.

***Psalm 86:15** ~ **But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.**

You are abounding in mercy—whether in quantity, size, age, or quality—for Your fountain of mercy will never run dry. Grace offers pardon for our crimes, and mercy provides relief from our deserved punishment.

***Psalm 106:44–45 NKJ** ~ **Nevertheless He regarded their affliction, when He heard their cry; and for their sake He remembered His covenant, and relented according to the multitude of His mercies.**

LORD, Your generous mercy is more than abundant to hear our prayers, even when You discipline us. As our Father, You remember Your covenant and tenderly have a compassion that brings relief to our cries for help.

***Hebrews 2:17** ~ **Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.**

Lord Jesus, You are touched by our suffering with deep compassion and have taken up our cause! You satisfied God's wrath, our sins are pardoned, our petitions are heard, and You help us in our times of need and distress.

***Titus 3:5** ~ **He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.**

Father, apart from Christ, You have never seen anything in us that was worth saving. Your mercy took pity on our desperate plight, so Your love, grace, and mercy brought the rescue that saved us through Jesus Christ.

***Ephesians 2:4–6** ~ **But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.**

But God, who are we to have a seat reserved for us in the heavenly places with Jesus Christ? We are the ones who are greatly loved and eternally secure. Blessed be the Lord God, whose benefits we will not forget!

***Confession** ~ *Merciful Father, we have received more from You than we know. You saved us not on the basis of our deeds, for all our works are as filthy rags. As we move into our time of confession, we are fully aware of how much we need Your pity and Your healing touch. As the Puritans used to say, “Even our repentance needs repentance.” We struggle to show mercy to others by seeking to relieve their sufferings. We forget to be kind to one another, or tenderhearted, forgiving one another as You have forgiven us in Christ. We can become jealous and judgmental. Yet You tell us to be merciful, and we will receive mercy! What a gracious promise! Your mercy is free and spontaneous. It is a powerful mercy that is superabundant, saving, and forgiving. It guides, corrects, restrains us from sin, and overflows with compassion. As we pause to repent, please have mercy on us through Your gracious forgiveness. We remember Your tender mercies toward us and silently pour out in confession all that Your Holy Spirit brings to our minds.*

“FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.”
 Hebrews 8:12

***Thanksgiving** ~ *How grateful we are to have been forgiven and filled with all the fullness of God. May Your mercy show through us as we extend forgiveness to those who have sinned against us. Thank You for the compassion, benevolence, sympathy, lovingkindness, and mercy You display throughout our lives!*

***Intercession** ~ *Lord, bless these godly men with many rewards for having given to others in abundance.*
Insert names here:

***Luke 6:38** ~ **“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”**

Father, keep them continually poor in spirit, mourning for their sin, with gentle dispositions as they constantly hunger and thirst for a more righteous moral character. Give them abundant comfort, satisfaction, and help.

***Matthew 10:8b** ~ **“Freely you received, freely give.”**

We each have been shown much free mercy. Remind these men that we are all undeserving of the salvation we have received and are always in the process of sanctification. May their generous mercy relieve others’ pain.

***Psalm 116:12–13** ~ **What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me? I shall lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the LORD.**

Enlarge their souls with gratitude for the tender, enriching, pardoning pity with which You have perfumed the days of their lives. Fill their forgiven and joyful hearts with holiness and blessing in all their Master’s service.

***Romans 9:23** ~ **And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory.**

Lord, prepare these dear ones to know Your glory. As chosen vessels to receive mercy, let it pour out of them from Your abundant refilling supply. May they be givers who continually meet needs and share Your love.

***The Congregation and PrayerSHOP Warriors ~ Micah 7:18 ~ Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love (mercy). May our hearts melt because of Your constant love, Your grace that removes our sin, and Your mercy reserved for our times of trouble. Let our hearts overflow with forgiveness toward all, because Christ’s cross satisfied Your justice on our behalf.**

***Benediction ~ Psalm 23:6 NKJ ~ Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

From Your great goodness, we enjoy Your forgiving mercies, protecting mercies, sustaining mercies, and mercies to supply all our needs. Thank You, gracious Lord, for pursuing us unto salvation, then chasing after us with Your continued favor forever! In Jesus’ beautiful and glorious name! Amen!