

June 13, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Mat. 5:7 *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.* (NIV)

We are never more like the Father than when we show others mercy. This beautiful attitude reminds us that if it were not for God's amazing grace, we would be hopelessly doomed to an eternity separated from Him. And now Jesus is showing us the principle of reciprocity. In **Luke 6:38** He tells us to "***give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.***" (NIV)

Because true mercy can only come from a pure heart, we must be abiding in Him to be able to give it. And we give it because we have first received it. Not only will we receive this blessing, we will then be attuned to those around us that are weak, poor, in sorrow, in mourning, hurting, in broken relationships, or trapped in the claws of sin. There are hurting people all around us that we probably don't even see because we are too self-consumed. When Jesus looked at the crowds of people that day, He saw people that were lost, who had no hope and certainly needed mercy. Instead of dishing out punishment, we should be looking to reach out with mercy and forgiveness. This world certainly needs it. Our neighbors need it. Our co-workers need it. Our families need it. Let's give mercy, even when it would be more satisfying to our flesh to dole out punishment. If you want God's mercy, then be merciful to others.

Dear LORD, this is not natural to us as people. We tend to want to get back at someone who has hurt us. Help us to be reminded of the words of Jesus on the cross. Having been beaten, spit upon, impaled to a cross and mocked by the people, He cried out, Father forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing. Help us LORD. In Jesus Name, Amen