

50 Days to a Blessed Life

How to Become a Merciful Person

I. Introduction

- A. Matthew 5:7 (NAS) *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”*
 - 1. Mercy - - “Love in action”
- B. Psalm 145:8-9 (NAS) ⁸*The LORD is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. ⁹The LORD is good to all, and His mercies are over all His works.*

II. How Do I Know If I’m Being Merciful?

- A. I am patient with people who are “unique”!
 - 1. I Thessalonians 5:14 (NAS) *We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.*
 - 2. Learn about the person’s background.
 - 3. Behind every peculiar behavior, there’s some sort of pain.
 - 4. Romans 15:7 (NAS) *Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.*
- B. I forgive those who have fallen.
 - 1. Colossians 3:12-14 (NAS) ¹²*So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.*
 - 2. Matthew 6:12 (NAS) *“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”*
- C. I help those who are hurting.
 - 1. Proverbs 3:27 (NAS) *Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.*
 - 2. Mercy is practical assistance!
 - 3. I John 3:16-18 (NAS) ¹⁶*We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*
 - 4. *“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can.” (John Wesley)*
- D. I do good to my enemies.
 - 1. Luke 6:33, 35-36 (NAS) ³³*If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”*
 - 2. The best way to eliminate an enemy is to turn him into a friend!

III. Why Should I Be Merciful to Others?

- A. Because God has shown me mercy
 - 1. Matthew 18:23-33 (NLT) ²³*“Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. ²⁵He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. ²⁶But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ ²⁷Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave him his debt. ²⁸But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. ²⁹His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. ³⁰But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. ³¹When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. ³²Then 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. ³³Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’”*
 - 2. John 8:7 (NAS) *“He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”*
 - 3. John 8:10-11 (NAS) ¹⁰*“Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” ¹¹She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.”*
- B. Because I’m going to need mercy in the future
 - 1. James 2:13 (NAS) *For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.*
 - 2. *“I just can’t forgive them!”*
 - 3. Be very careful about demanding justice because God might just give it to you!
- C. Because it makes me happy
 - 1. Matthew 5:7 (NAS) *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”*
 - 2. Proverbs 11:17 (NAS) *The merciful man does himself good, but the cruel man does himself harm.*
 - 3. Galatians 6:7-9 (NAS) ⁷*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the*

Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

IV. How Do I Become a Merciful Person?

- A. You must first experience the mercy of God yourself.
 - 1. Romans 3:23 (NAS) *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
 - 2. Romans 6:23a (NAS) *For the wages of sin is death.*
 - 3. Acts 4:12 (NAS) *“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”*
 - 4. Romans 10:13 (NAS) *For “WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”*
- B. Start looking at people the way God does.
 - 1. “Lord, how do You see this person?”
- C. Ask yourself regularly, “Who is it in my life that needs mercy?”
 - 1. We want VCNP to be a place of mercy!

V. Conclusion