

WANT MERCY?/ SHOW MERCY!



I. Introduction-

Good morning and yeah I am back so soon!

Today we continue our series covering Jesus' Beatitudes! What a group of challenging topics so far.

- Pastor Tony kicked off with the poor in spirit
- Pastor Randall covered those who mourn
- I the addressed meekness by the mile!
- Pastor JD brought us to a place of concern over the persecuted
- Last week Pastor Justin during the youth takeover service addressed what was to be the Salt and Light
- And here I am back with looking blessed are the merciful!

**“Blessed are the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.”** Matthew 5:7 NKJV

Each of one these beatitudes demonstrate something of the character of God....
That Jesus thought important or inciteful for us to reach for!

- I am thinking here with that in mind that Jesus wanted to enhance our relationship with God
- Also He hoped that connections with others would be made whole as Matthew recorded.

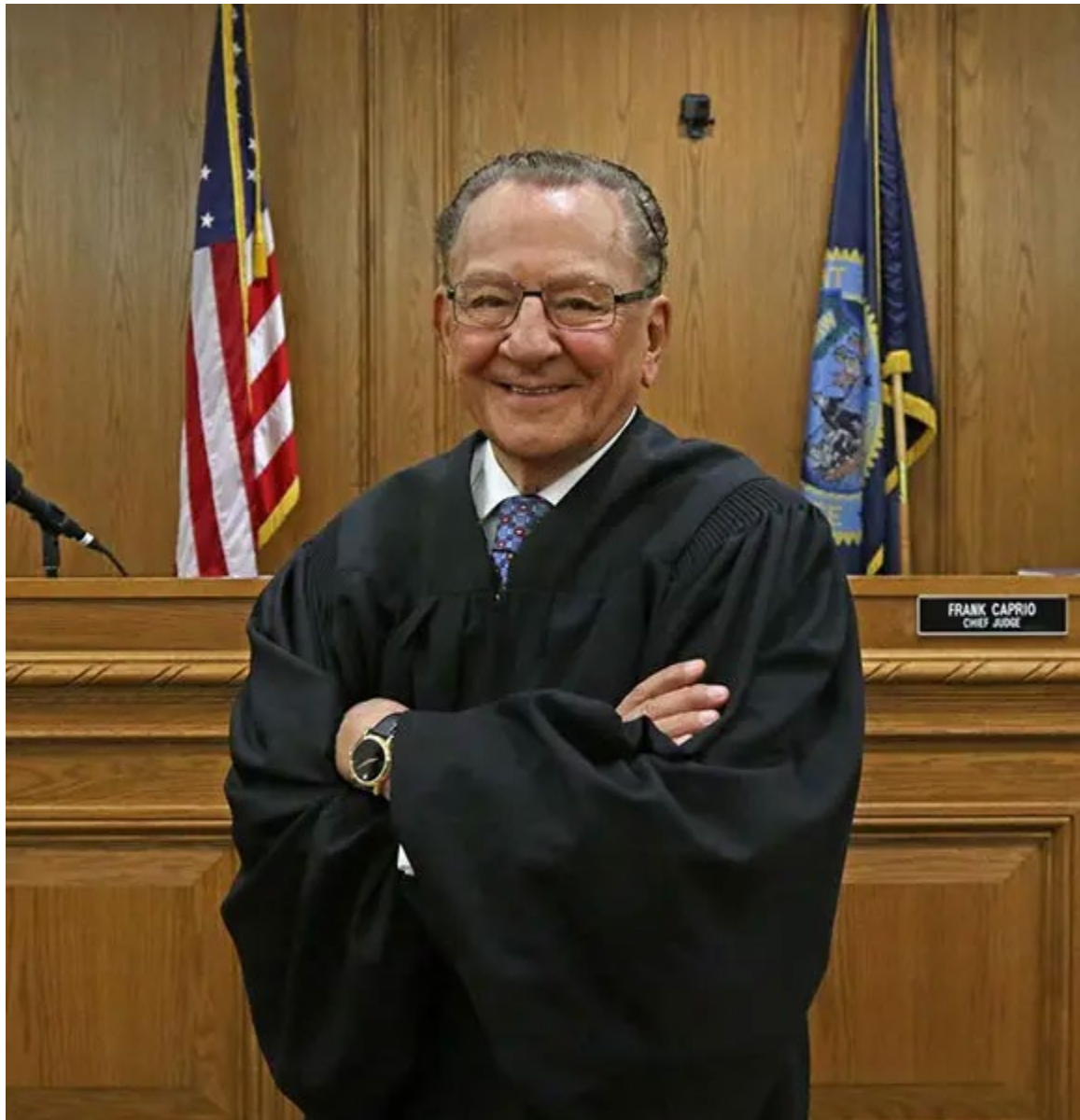
So before really start with this one and for all of them I would guess...

You have to ask the question-What does this passage mean and how can I apply it correctly to my life.

In human condition applying mercy is very *subjective* to the person we are staring down.

- Mercy is NOT giving to someone what they deserve.
- A judge can go easy on someone and show mercy
- Courts can be and often are merciful.

Famous in our local area was Judge Frank Caprio.



“I had the most privileged childhood I could imagine... I had the privilege of being brought up poor,”. Judge Frank Caprio

His father, Antonio Caprio, was an Italian immigrant who worked as a milkman.

“Some mornings he would wake my older brother and I up at 4 in the morning to work with him on the truck. I learned one of the most valuable lessons working with my dad on the truck: I learned how to treat people. I learned understanding. I learned compassion...” Judge Frank Caprio

For nearly 40 years, Judge Frank Caprio listened to people who came to the Main Municipal Courthouse of Rhode Island

And somehow during his tenure... Judge Caprio went out of his way to show them mercy.

Here a sample of Judge Caprio in action...with a few children who are very close to me!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdLzMyqDuDY> <PLAY VIDEO>

For people who did indeed break the law by the way. Mercy is so often as I said earlier subjective!

A person though they have been wronged has the ability to forgive when justice says that they must be punished. They can exhibit mercy.

Quite simply, Mercy is an extension of parts of me:

- expression of my love
- an act of my kindness
- from my perspective of compassion
- maybe from favor--- where I am thinking if I do this...what can I get out of it?

And yet there is something about mercy with God as the basis!

So the question is this morning – do you WANT MERCY?

Then you have to SHOW MERCY!

II. **BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL**

This lost and broken world corrupts mercy

All as they are executing without the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

And that is where we want to land this morning!

As to how can any of us show mercy alone...without that even being corrupted?

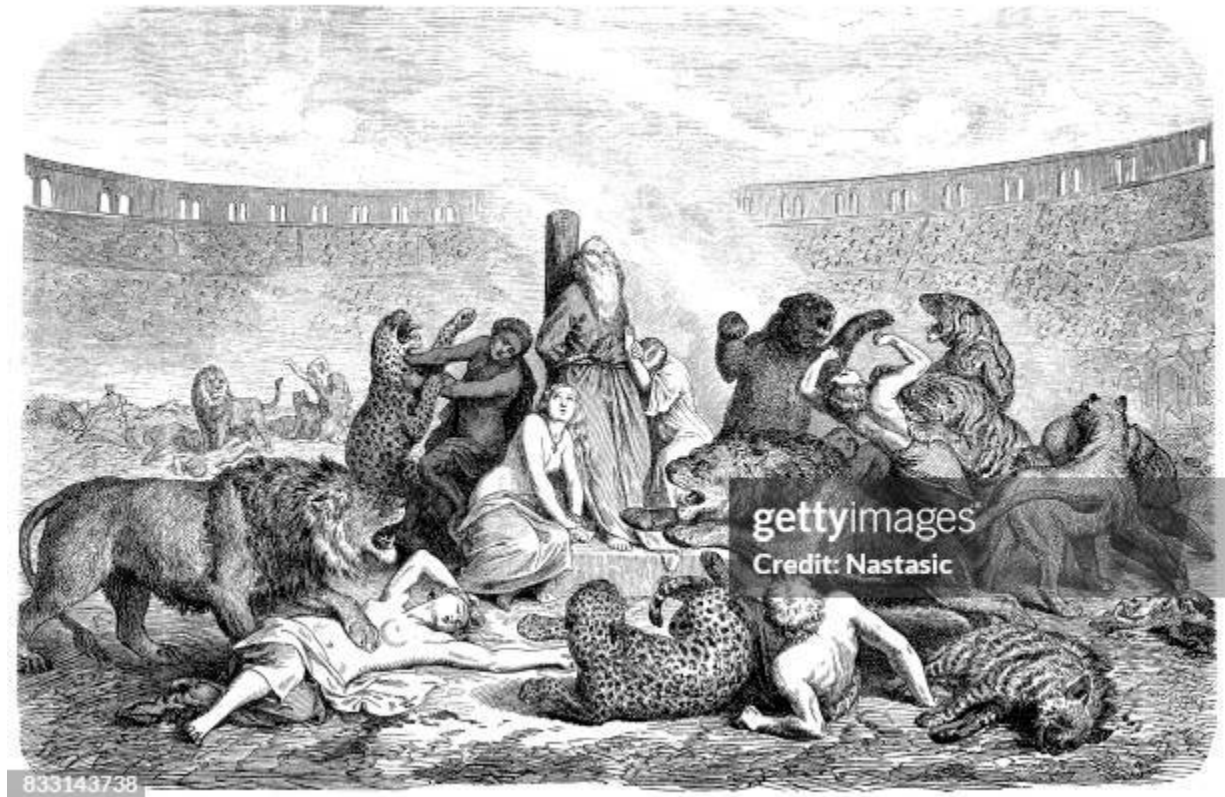


The Roman Coliseum is one of the wonders of the world... where so many are visiting even this morning.

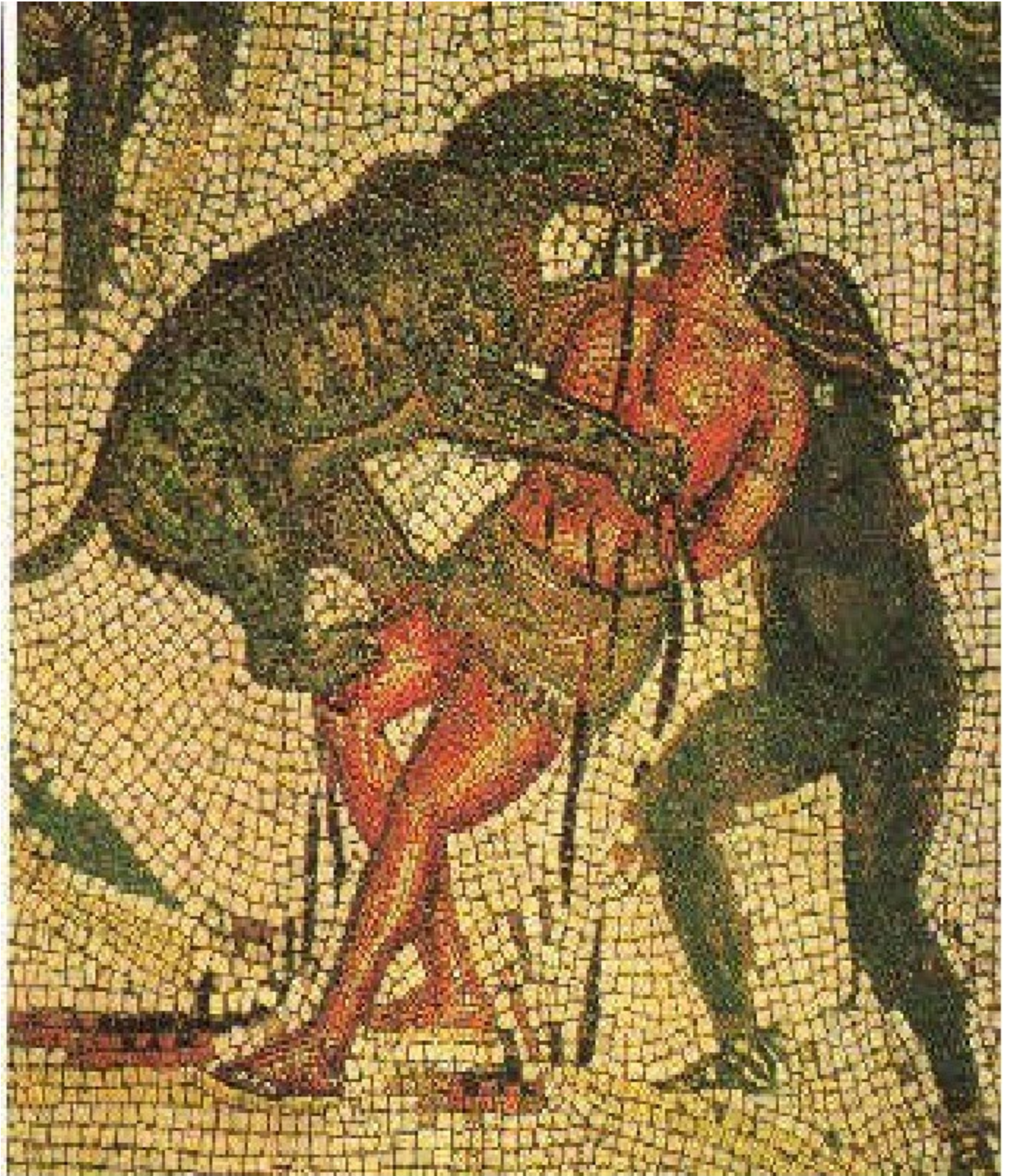
In this building were many staged reenactments of battles both on land and sea

- These included significant Christian persecution during the early years of Christianity.





- The Colosseum is synonymous with the Christian martyrdom of the early who died in its arena



- This was in parallel of the broader pattern of violence against Christians throughout the Roman Empire, particularly during the 1st to 4th centuries AD.



So why the history lesson, Jim?

Because perhaps you were not aware...in the midst of this terrible persecution both justice and mercy being practiced!

For this morning, how often in 2025 with the rhetoric of the CNNs and the FOXs and the local news stations

- can we figure out justice and mercy together and our result with these inputs – they will not fit.

Yet in Rome, these brothers and sisters themselves were practicing Mercy from within the catacombs of this facility!

- Not only did not avoid being burned, mauled by animals, death of the sword in reenactments, but **they wanted to be next!**

WHY!?? The Holy Spirit inspired this to apply mercy to one another there.

Why??? The thought was - If they were next than perhaps their friend or family member would be spared!

Yet against this was the law.

For ROME, they were exercising law-based justice against this insurrection of the movement known as THE WAY.

Grasp this concept that:

- Justice is getting what you deserve.
- Mercy is receiving something that you do not deserve.

We desire today to understand outside of the news network. Outside of history. Even Outside of how maybe we were raised,

just what did Jesus want us to learn in Blessed are the Merciful!?

<p>“Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.” Matthew 5:7 NKJV</p>

Jesus is saying to us this morning,

- blessed are those who show mercy (give people what they don't deserve) and promises those that do that, that he will show the same mercy to them.

It is easy for someone to say- I cannot forgive them. You don't know what they did to me.

- Your right about that, in yourself, you cannot forgive.

Going back to Rome they have government and laws and even a senate.

Yet they also were human and corrupted... so were their courts, right.

So was justice even just?

But God has a higher standard required. Not only justice... but mercy to those you know who do not even deserve it!

As with the Holy Spirit - It is a God thing!

- It is bigger than you.

A. FORGIVE AND YOU CAN BE FORGIVEN!!!

12 **and forgive us our sins,
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.** Matt 6:12

We forgive those who trespass or in this NLT translation SINS against us.

The Greek word for trespass here means those who stumble, fall, slip, blunder, to deviate from righteousness and truth.

25 **But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.[a]**” Mark 11:25

Who do we know that we need to forgive?

Jesus further down in the Sermon of the Mount shared we leave...

24 **leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.** Matt 5:24

Leave our sacrifice the altar and reconcile and then come back to God to complete our time of worship!

James offered:

13 **because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.** James 2:13

How about these perspectives, for which why so many cannot forgive and move forward.

- It is not simply feeling sorry for someone in trouble.
- It means the ability to get right inside other people until we see things with their eyes.
- Think things with their minds, feel things with their feelings.

Anyone besides me this morning, realize that without God's help, I am not always very good at that?

We need a partnership with the Holy Spirit.

So we can in a deliberate action, understand and make an effort to reconcile to reunite!

But from the inside instead of from the outside.

We know this is what we should do, but without God's help we truly complete the actions required!

You see of when, it is from the outside,

- we make an attempt and as a result our feelings get in the way.

Because until God is involved, it's about:

- your feelings
- your way
- and laughable I know - how you can feel better about it.

B. ACCEPT YOUR OWN VIOLATIONS!

“To know all is to forgive all” French proverb-

Wonderful and simplistic and yet will we ever know all?

- Maybe if we made careful attempts to get inside the other persons mind and heart.
- To walk a mile in their shoes as it is said!

The sooner we accept and even more accurate, understand our trespasses!

See them the way God see them;

- that alone will make forgiveness and tolerance so much easier.

In light of that lets take a look at this exchange between Jesus and Peter.

21 Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone[i] who sins against me? Seven times?”

22 **“No, not seven times,”** Jesus replied, **“but seventy times seven![j]** Matthew 18:21-22



Peter is citing this number as this is the traditional requirement for the Jews

- Yet Jesus is saying it is more than the number of times
 - It is truly not allowing bitterness into your heart.

Life can only be understood backwards but it must be lived forwards. ~ Soren Kierkegaard

Applying this Danish philosopher and theologian's point here.

If we are looking back and accept that you have been forgiven

so much then we can we go forward and

do what God is asking in forgiveness!

Jesus with such patience and offers up a **Parable of an Unmerciful Servant.**



Because Jesus is full of mercy and to help Peter out, he offers this illustration.

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.

24 In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.[c] 25 He 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.

26 “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ 27 Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

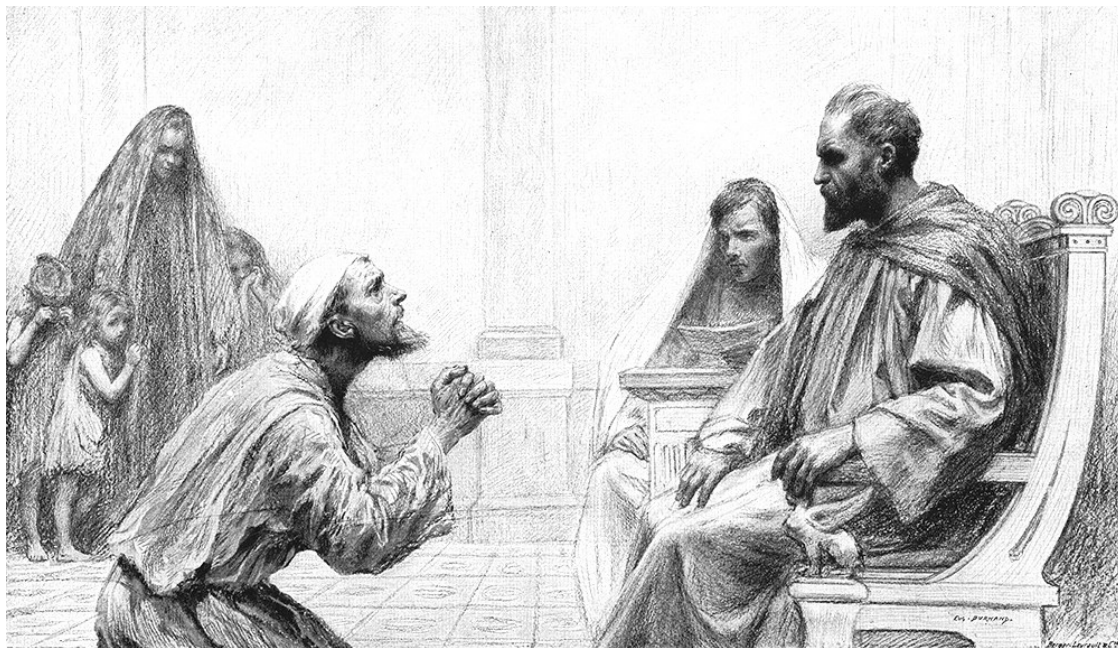
28 “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars.[d] He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

29 “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. 30 But his creditor wouldn’t

wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

31 “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. 32 Then 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. 33 Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ 34 Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

35 “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters[e] from your heart.” Matthew 18:23=35

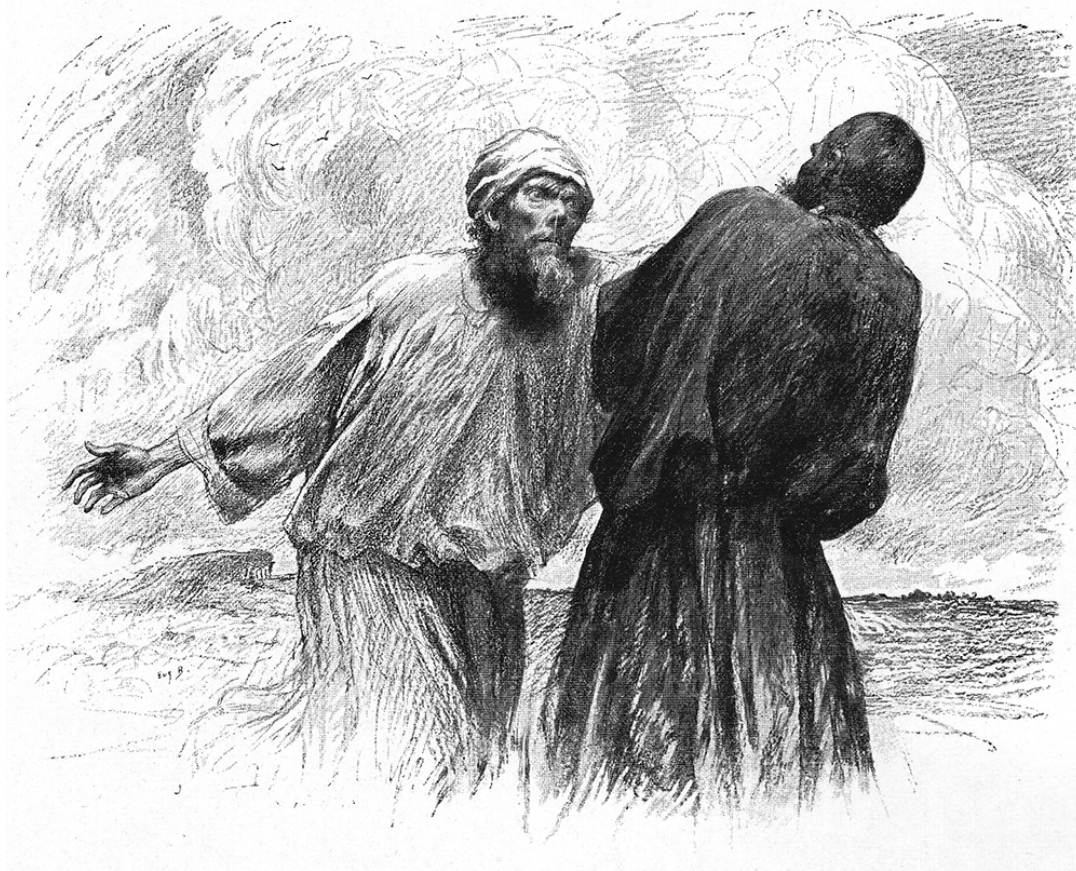


Be patient with me, and I will pay back everything! The servants master took pity on him. Cancelled the debt and set him free.

And yet we see that human condition – rise up where this happens!

But 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...

Be patient with me, I will pay you back.



Yet this time instead of showing mercy, he has just received, he throws him in prison until he could pay him back.

Jesus has a point here with this story telling!

Anyone who has accepted the merciful forgiveness of God for their life and cannot forgive others as they have been forgiven will truly be treated the same way by Father God!



All of us need forgiveness from God, and from others that we just can't repay!!

- and yet when how often are we not willing to give forgiveness like Christ has forgiven us?

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.” –
Psalm 145:8

Aren't you thankful that the Lord is so gracious and rich in love... so he can be compassionate and not angry at you!!

Jesus' forgiveness is unlimited and so there must be the spirit and practice of forgiveness with us.

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” – Luke 6:36

Simply thought from Jesus - if the Father is merciful can we too be merciful!?

- Can we love without condition!?
 - To not expect something in return
 - To only act in forgiveness without getting something from the one we forgive?

That's not of the Spirit of God and is more accurately is self-centered mercy!

This morning, I am saying “We need God’s spirit of forgiveness.”

The parable is simple, expressive and a great explanation by Jesus!

God rules justly over this world and we need to ensure we are listening

And not only hearing but doing too...being obedient to what God asks of us....

Paul grasped this concept and offered this instruction in his letter to the Ephesians!

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32



For us this morning can you be challenged to strengthen every area of life through these wonderful elements of forgiveness?

- He is loving, compassionate and forgiving.
- He is consumed with such levels of love and compassion,
 - All that no matter what you have done, where you have been --- Jesus will forgive it all!

Do you want Mercy? Show mercy!

How much has God forgiven you?

- Some debt that you could not pay.
- We cannot do it- by ourselves!

- Ask God to help you.

Always remember that we need this kind of help. It is not weakness!

To accept this help from God , doesn't mean you fail- it just means you're not doing it alone anymore

The same God Jesus was addressing with Peter, Or as captured by David, or Paul, is the same one you need to cry out to!

Crying out for Him to be patient with you,

And yet just on the other side of that very mercy you received...

The Master who took pity on you is expressing that you too, have to do the same thing for your family... your friends... your brothers and sisters here... your neighbor and even your enemies!

III. Closing

As the Scriptures say,
“No one is righteous—
not even one.
11 No one is truly wise;
no one is seeking God.
12 All have turned away;
all have become useless.
No one does good,
not a single one. Romans 3:10-12



No one is righteous – and all have turned away and are fallen short of the Glory of God!

We need MERCY! We need forgiveness!

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. 32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. EPH 4:31-32

Paul is reminding to get rid of to toss away all of these bad feelings lead to bitterness, rage, anger, etc.

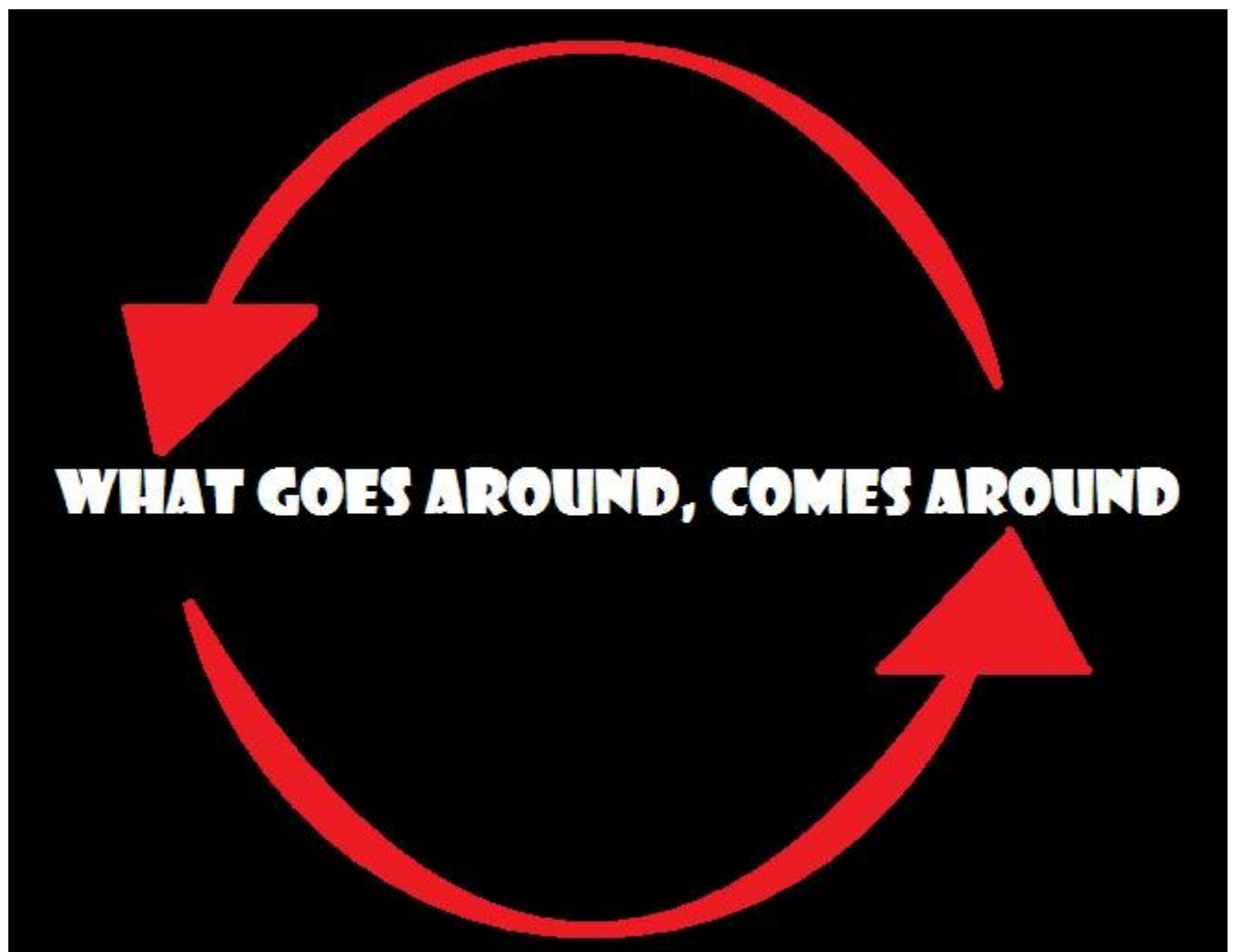
- this rotted evil behavior takes us away from God.

When we don't forgive, we are asking God to do for us what we are not willing to do for someone else.

There is a saying and I have even heard Pastor Randal state it during this series a few weeks ago - "Resentment is like drinking poison, and hoping the other person dies."

We all want mercy (forgiveness). The Lord tells us that we must forgive.

There is truth to this all time used cliché—



what goes around, comes around.

- IN context to our Parable, God says you will receive what you dish out.

Better we know this is not based on the heretical concept of Karma... but on this text and also:

7 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Gal 6:7

Stop the planting things that will bring severe justice to your doorstep!

- It is high time to plant in order to harvest justice and in connection - mercy!

Our mandate is to lift up Christ! We begin by being merciful.

WANT MERCY – SHOW MERCY!

Can we be like the saints in Rome,

in the colosseum and think with Mercy above all else!

Even to lay down our lives for someone else!

It comes with a wonderful promise- The merciful will be shown mercy.

I know I sure need it and hope you grasp ---- so do you!?

Amen?

Let's pray to a good good father who is merciful to forgive and also to enable us to do the same!!