

Mt 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Ps 41:1; Mt 6:14; Mr 11:25; 2Ti 1:16; Heb 6:10; Jas 2:13

Adam Clarke's Commentary:

Verse 7. The merciful] The word mercy, among the Jews, signified two things: the pardon of injuries, and almsgiving. Our Lord undoubtedly takes it in its fullest latitude here. To know the nature of mercy, we have only to consult the grammatical meaning of the Latin word misericordia, from which ours is derived. It is composed of two words: miserans, pitying, and cor, the heart; or miseria cordis, pain of heart. Mercy supposes two things: 1. A distressed object: and, 2. A disposition of the heart, through which it is affected at the sight of such an object. This virtue, therefore, is no other than a lively emotion of the heart, which is excited by the discovery of any creature's misery; and such an emotion as manifests itself outwardly, by effects suited to its nature. The merciful man is here termed by our Lord elehmwn, from eleov, which is generally derived from the Hebrew lyx chil, to be in pain, as a woman in travail: or from lly galal, to cry, or lament grievously; because a merciful man enters into the miseries of his neighbour, feels for and mourns with him.

They shall obtain mercy.] Mercy is not purchased but at the price of mercy itself; and even this price is a gift of the mercy of God. What mercy can those vindictive persons expect, who forgive nothing, and are always ready to improve every advantage they have of avenging themselves? Whatever mercy a man shows to another, God will take care to show the same to him. The following elegant and nervous saying of one of our best poets is worthy of the reader's most serious attention:-

"The quality of mercy is not strained;  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed;  
It blesseth him who gives, and him who takes:  
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes  
The throned monarch better than his crown.  
It is an attribute of God himself;  
And earthly power doth then show likest God's,  
When mercy seasons justice.-----  
Though justice be thy plea, consider this,  
That, in the course of justice, none of us

Should see salvation. We do pray for mercy;  
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render  
The deeds of mercy.-----

Why, all the souls that are, were forfeit once:  
And he who might the 'vantage best have took  
Found out the remedy. How would you be,  
If He who is the top of judgment should  
But judge you as you are? O! think on that;  
And mercy then will breathe within your lips,  
Like man, new made.

How shalt thou hope for mercy, rend'ring none?"

there is a saying very like this of our Lord. "He who shows mercy to men, God will show mercy to him:  
but to him who shows no mercy to man, God will show no mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Ps 15:2; 24:4; 1Co 13:12; Heb 12:14; 1Jo 3:2-3