

“Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy”

[Matthew 5:7]

1 The P_____ of Mercy

“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” [Genesis 3:21]

“The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving sin.”

[Exodus 34:6-7]

“On hearing this, Jesus said, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. But go and learn what this means: “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.’” [Matthew 9:12-13]

“If you had known what these words mean, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice”, you would not have condemned the innocent.”

[Matthew 12:7]

“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.” [Matthew 5:20]

2 The P_____ of Mercy

[a] Mercy involves _____ the guilty

Matthew 18:21-35 [page 986]

“But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.” [Matthew 5:44-45a]

[b] Mercy involves _____ the needy

Cf The constant example of Jesus and his teaching e.g. the parable of the Good Samaritan [Luke 10:25-37]

3 The P_____ of Mercy

“Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy”

[Matthew 5:7]

But also the warnings.....

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your father will not forgive your sins.”

[Matthew 6:14-15]

“.....In his anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.” [Matthew 18:34-35]