

January 14, 2024

The Lord wants you to live in His light.

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

In today's Beautiful Attitude, we see a loving and merciful LORD. Aren't you glad that He doesn't treat us as we deserve. We all deserve to be separated from Him forever because of our sin. The mercy or grace we receive is an act of unconditional love from a Father who looks beyond who we are, to what we have become through Jesus Christ. One of the most significant declarations of this was penned by Paul from a prison cell. **Rom. 5:6-11** *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

Since the LORD has treated us by His grace, He then commends others who also treat one another with His kind of love. Yes, my neighbor might have offended me, but I am to give him grace and unconditional love. Yes, my co-worker may have treated me poorly, but I am to treat Him as I have been treated by the LORD. This is not easy in the flesh, but as we begin to walk in the Spirit, we can allow God's love to flow through us and bless others as we have been blessed. I remember one particular time when someone I love had done something that they shouldn't have, and I was angry. But in this moment, the Spirit told me to just love them. When I showed love and forgiveness, they softened and immediately received that love. It is amazing what the love of God can do in each and every situation!

Dear LORD, we need Your mercy in our lives and so do others. Help us be a vessel of forgiveness to those around us. It is not ours to dole out the punishment, but in standing by Your principles, give love to others. You say in Your Word that vengeance is Yours. I trust You to do what is best. In Jesus Name, Amen