

## BE MERCIFUL – READING

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

The heart of man is by nature cold and dark and unloving; whenever one manifests a spirit of mercy and forgiveness, he does it not of himself, but through [Page 22] the influence of the divine Spirit moving upon his heart. “We love, because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19, R.V.

God is Himself the source of all mercy. His name is “merciful and gracious.” Exodus 34:6. He does not treat us according to our desert. He does not ask if we are worthy of His love, but He pours upon us the riches of His love, to make us worthy. He is not vindictive. He seeks not to punish, but to redeem. Even the severity which He manifests through His providences is manifested for the salvation of the wayward. He yearns with intense desire to relieve the woes of men and to apply His balsam to their wounds. It is true that God “will by no means clear the guilty” (Exodus 34:7), but He would take away the guilt.

The merciful are “partakers of the divine nature,” and in them the compassionate love of God finds expression. All whose hearts are in sympathy with the heart of Infinite Love will seek to reclaim and not to condemn. Christ dwelling in the soul is a spring that never runs dry. Where He abides, there will be an overflowing of beneficence.

To the appeal of the erring, the tempted, the wretched victims of want and sin, the Christian does not ask, Are they worthy? but, How can I benefit them? In the most wretched, the most debased, he sees souls whom Christ died to save and for whom God has given to His children the ministry of reconciliation.

The merciful are those who manifest compassion to the poor, the suffering, and the oppressed. Job [Page 23] declares, “I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem. I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out.” Job 29:12-16.

There are many to whom life is a painful struggle; they feel their deficiencies and are miserable and unbelieving; they think they have nothing for which to be grateful. Kind words, looks of sympathy, expressions of appreciation, would be to many a struggling and lonely one as the cup of cold water to a thirsty soul. A word of sympathy, an act of kindness, would lift burdens that rest heavily upon weary shoulders. And every word or deed of unselfish kindness is an expression of the love of Christ for lost humanity.

The merciful “shall obtain mercy.” “The soul of blessing shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.” Proverbs 11:25, margin. There is sweet peace for the compassionate spirit, a blessed satisfaction in the life of self-forgetful service for the good of others. The Holy Spirit that abides in the soul and is manifest in the life will soften hard hearts and awaken sympathy and tenderness. You will reap that which you sow. “Blessed is he that considereth the poor. . . . The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he

shall be blessed upon the earth: and Thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him upon [Page 24] the bed of languishing: Thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.” Psalm 41:1-3. He who has given his life to God in ministry to His children is linked with Him who has all the resources of the universe at His command. His life is bound up by the golden chain of the immutable promises with the life of God. The Lord will not fail him in the hour of suffering and need. “My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19. And in the hour of final need the merciful shall find refuge in the mercy of the compassionate Saviour and shall be received into everlasting habitations.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Ellen G. White, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing* (Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association), 18-21.

## BE MERCIFUL – STUDY GUIDE

1. Without consulting a dictionary or thesaurus, give your definition of “merciful”.
2. How does your definition differ from, or in what ways is it similar to, the dictionary definition?
3. Which people do you find it most difficult to show mercy?
4. Share some practical ways can you demonstrate mercy in your local community.
5. What is the nature of man’s heart? {MB 21.3}
6. What does God do to make us worthy of His mercy? {MB 22.1}
7. “All whose \_\_\_\_\_ are in \_\_\_\_\_ with the heart of \_\_\_\_\_ will seek to \_\_\_\_\_ and not to \_\_\_\_\_.”  
{MB 22.2}
8. What question doesn’t “the Christian” ask the erring and tempted? Instead, he/she asks what? {MB 22.3}
9. According to the author, who are the truly merciful? {MB 22.4}
10. “He who has given his \_\_\_\_\_ to God in \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ children is linked with Him who has \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ at His command.” {MB 24.1}

**Thought Question:** Most times we think that money is the only thing we can give to those who struggle, that they will appreciate. However, what five things does the author suggest would be “as the cup of cold water to a thirsty soul” and “would lift burdens that rest heavily upon weary shoulders.”? {MB 23.1}

## BE MERCIFUL – MY NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---