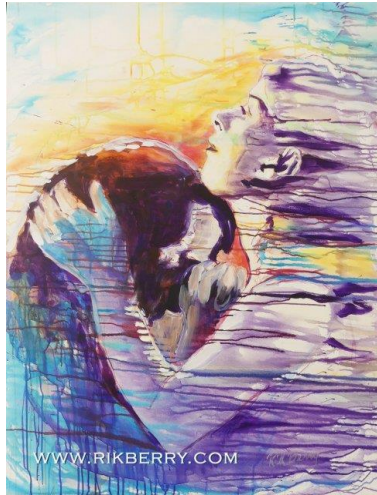


THE MERCY PRAYER



Mercy
Rik Berry

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Matthew 5:44

It doesn't make sense

I finally landed a decent job, good pay, beautiful place. Except for one thing: my boss. From Day One he decided I don't belong. He tells me to go back to Africa. He never leaves me alone. Makes my life miserable. Human Resources won't help. So I'm leaving.

And I'm supposed to pray for this guy? No way!

I thought I found my Prince. We had a magnificent wedding. A great honeymoon. A few pleasant years.

But now, with three little ones in a beautiful house my Prince has turned into a Monster. A few drinks and he comes home in a rage. He beats me. He'll beat the kids if I let him get near them. Life is intolerable, actually it's dangerous. The children and I are heading for a shelter before he gets home tonight.

And I'm supposed to pray for him? Thanks anyway!

Maybe in Galilee

Maybe back in those days, when life was sane, Jesus could say,

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

But in this world of lies, greed and violence, who in their right mind would waste time praying for those monsters who make our lives a terror?

It's the same world

Actually, the world back then was no more “sane” than it is now. And no less violent. When Jesus showed us the way of God’s World, he was revealing the only way to live in any world.

The only way that works.

The way he lived to his dying breath.

They whipped him, beat him, taunted him, and nailed him to a cross to die.

Did he call down curses from heaven?

Did he threaten them with the fires of hell?

He prayed for them.

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

That prayer had unspeakable power. Power that hovers over us as I write these words---and as you read them.

God’s forgiveness flows like a healing river.

That forgiveness enters us and transforms us.

But it refuses to stagnate within us.



Open Water
Melani Pyke

Either God’s forgiveness flows through us to those who have wronged us or it disappears.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Forgiveness is God’s supreme power on this earth.

God’s amazing grace.

When the risen Lord said, "Peace be with you!" to his trembling disciples, he was flooding their lives with forgiveness

Forgiveness for their cowardice, their unbelief.

The instant we receive God's forgiveness, we are empowered to ***love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.***

When it seems impossible to forgive the one who destroyed our life, the Spirit of God comes like a wind at our back and helps us break through our bitterness.

The Mercy Prayer

Many years ago Rex Andrews, a Bible teacher in Zion, Illinois, lost his way. Andrews suffered through a long season of devastating guilt and despair, until the Lord found him, forgave him, and restored him to life.

From then on, the theme of Rex Andrews' life was God's unspeakable mercy.

Whenever Andrews was wronged or slandered, he would pray what he called "*The Mercy Prayer*":

Lord, flood the person I am thinking of with your fulfilling mercies, meeting all their needs!

It's not always easy to pray this prayer.

Sometimes we have to begin by saying, "Lord, I'm not sure I can mean the words, as I pray mercy on this person. Help me to keep praying the words until I can say them from my heart!"

Lord, flood the person I am thinking of with your fulfilling mercies, meeting all their needs!

Why should we stumble through life loaded down with bitterness toward those who have wronged us?

The same Master who paid our debt with his own blood will help us clear away those debts we hold against our tormentors.

And fill us with his peace.

Prayer: *Beloved Lord, you cover us with such grace, such forgiveness..... again and again you wrap us in your tender mercy. But we are stagnating in anger, resentment, criticism and hurt. Jesus, release us from this torment. We need your help to break through this bitterness. We want to be filled to be filled with your love and peace instead. Transform our hearts. Empower us to love those who have hurt us, wronged us, betrayed us, those who annoy us, and those who oppose us. May your forgiveness and healing flow from our broken and twisted hearts. Give us hearts that truly desire for them to be covered in your tender mercy. Flood them with your loving mercy, meet their needs, give them their hearts desire. Bless them, bless them.*



THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

Maranatha Mirror Messages

mmirror.net

maranathamirror18@gmail.com

586-530-6983 (text or call)



Message written August 2020 REB

Art: By permission Rik Berry at rikberry.com and Melani Pyke at melpyke.com