

I Give Up!

Living Like A King #6

Gary Chappel - October 12, 2014

God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Matthew 5:7 (NLT)

Mercy = Compassion: (a feeling of deep sympathy & sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering). or kindly forbearance, (abstaining from the enforcement of a right), shown toward an offender or other person in one's power.

Mercy is in contrast to justice.

(Psst... that makes it un-American! i.e., "Justice for all")

Justice = not violating someone else's rights

Mercy = the surrender of my rights

Merciful: vs.

Overlooks Offenses

Forgiving

Investigates

Patient

Reconciles

Selfless

Unmerciful:

Easily offended

Unforgiving

Judges

Impatient

Stews

Selfish

How do I become a merciful person?

1. Decide I want to be like Jesus.

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Mark 8:34 (NIV)

You were told that your foolish desires will destroy you and that you must give up your old way of life with all its bad habits. Let the Spirit change your way of thinking and make

you into a new person. You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (CEV)

Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT)

??? Have I really decided to be like Jesus?

2. Focus on the Mercy given me.

"But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment... Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you? Matthew 18:28, 32-33 (NLT)

??? Do I see my sin clearly?

3. Practice "giving up" my rights.

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. Philippians 2:5-7 (NLT)