

Become A Vessel for Mercy

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy."*

Matthew 5:7

The purpose of this protocol is to:

- ◆ **Understand more deeply** Jesus' exhortation to mercy in Luke 6:36: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."
- ◆ **Entrain our focus** on developing our internal nature over our carnal mind's beliefs, stances and programs.
- ◆ **Discipline our mind and character** to being molded to Christ.
- ◆ **Cultivate more deeply** the godly virtue of mercy.

Where, how and with whom a person first comes to Christ Jesus informs and drives how they walk through their relationship with Him. Certain denominations focus on criticism of other denominations, and so their spiritual or religious walk is soaked in this focus and tone.

What is the focus and tone of your walk with Christ Jesus?

The Hebrew language gives us a deeper insight and understanding of what is God's mercy — beyond our mental, carnal mind's framework for "mercy." Hebrew has several words that are all translated to simply "mercy" in English.

Yet if we dive more deeply into the Hebrew and where and how the various words for mercy are applied in the Old Testament, we deepen our understanding and appreciation for the word "mercy" as it shows up in the New Testament.

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Hebrew Words For Mercy Include:

- ◆ *Chanan (hanan)*. To be gracious, show favor, have mercy. The root of Hannah and John. Used to convey *extending* grace, compassion, kindness. Also used in the OT for *imploring* compassion, mercy, favor; bestow redemption (forgiveness). This infers forgiving an offense, not holding a grudge.
- ◆ *Chesed (kə·ḥas·də·k̄ā)*. Lovingkindness. 4 times, all in Psalms.
- ◆ *Rahamim (ra·ḥă·me·k̄ā)*. Compassion, tender mercies, a loyal love in covenant relationship. 8 times, 7 in Psalms. Extolling this virtue of God.

Jesus Introduces a New Paradigm Around Mercy

“Mercy” in some form shows up over 240 times in the Old Testament and is invariably about God’s mercy, asking for it, receiving it. Secondarily, it refers to a king meting out mercy. Yet Jesus turns the tables and asks **us** to be the ones giving out mercy. This is a new paradigm!

What is The Word conveying to us in this new paradigm?

A Harbinger for Jesus Yeshua

Psalm 85:11 can be taken as a harbinger for the coming Messiah Yeshua: “Love (*ḥesed*) and truth (*emet*)¹ will meet; justice and peace will kiss.”

Could it be that when Jesus is exhorting us to “*Be merciful , even as your Father is merciful,*” He is calling us to follow in His footsteps as the Incarnation of the union of Love and Truth? The only place that Love and Truth can truly and fully co-exist is in the indwelling Spirit of God.

¹ *Emet* is composed of the first (*alpha*), the middle (*mem*) and the last (*omega*) letters in the Hebrew alphabet. *Mem* is the bridge between the seen (revealed) and unseen (hidden) worlds. Jesus is that bridge. The last letter, *tav*, represents covenant.

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Why is it so important to Jesus that WE embody mercy? Could it be so that we could truly walk as His brothers and sisters, His kinfolk?

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***I COMMIT TO BECOMING A VESSEL FOR MERCY,*** answering Jesus' call to my heart, for my own heart to be an actual vessel for mercy, that I possess the godly virtue of mercy; being a vessel for God's Lovingkindness.

### ***We Pray....***

Dear Heavenly Father, Abba, believing in You and Your Son is the easy part and only the beginning of a soul journey to return to full relationship with You, made in Your image.

I understand that becoming a vessel of mercy is a profound undertaking that prepares me for eternal life, living as true kinfolk as Your Son Yeshua's brother/sister. Please receive my petitions and commitment here to become a vessel of mercy as Christ Jesus embodies and exemplifies for all of humanity.

### **Born of God**

- ◆ Dear Father God, I see in Your Word that I am called to be born of God, not limited to someone of natural descent, but born of spirit. In this way, I can become a vessel of mercy which is not truly comprehensible to the limited carnal mind.
- ◆ For John 1:12-13 declares: *"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."*

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- ◆ And Colossians 3:12 affirms: *“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.”*
- ◆ So Abba Father God, I commit to yielding to Your Spirit, surrendering my mindset and its contents to You, allowing Your Spirit of mercy to fill me and become the true fabric of my heart and soul, as God's chosen one.

### Mercy as Forgiveness

- ◆ Heavenly Father, I understand that one dimension of mercy is forgiving others, letting go of offense and not harboring bitterness and indulging in lingering anger, hurt and judgementalness.
- ◆ Jesus instructs in Matthew 6:14-15, *“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

### Love Kindness

- ◆ Heavenly Father, to become a vessel of mercy I commit to holding a value for kindness and compassion, and placing a priority on these virtues to refine my character.
- ◆ For Micah 6:8 explains: *“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”*

### You Desire Mercy

- ◆ Heavenly Father, til the soil of my heart and pull up any weeds that reside there, any stones or pebbles that impede the seed of Your mercy from fully taking root in my heart.

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- ◆ Your Word in Hosea 6:6 declares: *“For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.”* This tells me how important is the virtue of mercy, how important it is to possess mercy as part of my character.
- ◆ It’s so important, that Jesus teaches of it and quotes Hosea to demonstrate that when we judge on outer actions we might not know the truth, the whole truth, that God knows.
- ◆ For Jesus says in Matthew 12:6-8, *“I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”*
- ◆ Heavenly Father, tho it is not yet completely my nature, I do know it is my spiritual destiny; so I commit to answering Jesus call to *“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful,”* according to Luke 6:36.

### Mercy Over Judgement

- ◆ Dear Father God it is very easy to pass judgment on others especially when their bad behavior is so obvious, when they are glaringly off course. If I commit to being a vessel of mercy, You open the eyes of my heart to see and separate the sin from the sinner, who still deserves Your love and mercy — just as I, as a sinner, have received Your love and mercy.
- ◆ I repent for all the times and ways I have gotten stuck on the sin and directed all kinds of ill words and sentiments on the sinner, thereby making my own self the sinner of malice and condemnation. I am truly sorry Father Abba.
- ◆ I take to heart James 2:13 the admonishment: *“For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”*
- ◆ I understand that mercy triumphs over judgment because when I allow this greater value of Your own Heart to be the fabric of my heart, I have

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triumphed over the world's values, ways and limitations. My heart comes into union with Your Heart, and becomes a true Vessel of Mercy.

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SEALING PRAYER:

I Commit to...

*Loving my enemies, and doing good, and lending,
expecting nothing in return, and my reward will be great,
and I will be a son/daughter of the Most High,
for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.*

(I Commit to...) *Being merciful, even as my Father is merciful.*

(And) *Judging not, so I will not be judged;*

Condemning not, so I will not be condemned;

Forgiving, so that I will be forgiven;

Giving, so it will be given to me.

*Good measure, pressed down, shaken together,
running over, will be put into my lap.*

*For with the measure I use
it will be measured back to me.*

Amen

Luke 6:35-38