



JESUS' 8 STEPS TO HAPPINESS

Step Six: *'Happy are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy'*
Matthew 5:7

WHY SHOULD I BE MERCIFUL?

- BECAUSE GOD HAS SHOWN YOU MERCY

'Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times? Jesus answered, I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times'. Matthew 18:21-21 (NIV)

- BECAUSE RESENTMENT DOES NOT WORK:

'Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you'. Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)

- BECAUSE YOU WILL NEED FORGIVENESS:

'... because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment'. James 2:13 (NIV)

'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'. Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV)

HOW SHOULD I BE MERCIFUL?

- REVEAL... THE HURT *No closure without disclosure*
- RELEASE... THE OFFENDER *Face to face*
Now or Never
At the Cross
- REPLACE... WITH GOD'S PEACE
Let Christ rule in all things
Let Christ rule in your hearts

A PRAYER FOR HELP:

Dear God,
You have shown me that holding on to resentment for the wrong done to me is crippling me emotionally, spiritually and even physically.
I ask You today to help me be honest about the hurts I feel.
I've hidden some and ignored others, but now I am ready to come clean and tell the truth about my pain.
As I do, I ask that You give me the strength and the courage so I can release those who have hurt me and let go of my resentment toward them.
Only by Your power will be able to do this, Lord.
AMEN.



Wollondilly Anglican Church