

“What Hinders Prayer” Part 4

Text: Proverbs 21:13

Cross references: Matthew 7:2; James 2:13; I John 3:17

In this verse, God is teaching us that if we do not show mercy to others than he will not answer our prayers. To stop your ears at the cry of the poor means that you hear the plea of someone who needs help, and you have the means to help the person but you do nothing! You see that is not showing mercy to others.

The Easton's Bible Dictionary defines mercy as having compassion for the miserable or having compassion on someone who does not deserve your compassion. Is this not what Christ did for us when He died for our sins? We are always undeserving of Christ's payment for our sin, yet he paid it anyway. You see Christ is not asking us to do something that he has not already done for us! If we are not willing to show the same compassion to others that we have received from Christ, then we can be assured that God will not even listen to our prayers!!

Lord, may you ever keep us mindful of the mercy you have shown to us and that you show to us daily! Help us to show forth that same mercy to others even when they do not deserve it! Please give us the strength and compassion to be able to show your mercy because we must keep our line of communication open with you; for without that open line of communication, we are helpless to live a victorious life for you!