



PASTOR'S LESSON TO LIVE BY



***There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others.
But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.***
James 2:13 NLT

The young 9 year old girl was waiting in the Jail Lobby to say Goodbye to her father. It was going to be a hard Goodbye. Probably the hardest of her life. You see, her father, who I will refer to as **Inmate "B"**, had been sentenced to prison for life. Oh, his crime warranted the sentence. As a matter of fact, I'm the one who went out into the middle of a field to get **Inmate "B"** and take him to jail. I was very familiar with him. I had helped him try to get his life together while serving prior sentences in Jail and Prison. But sin won out. However, to the young daughter, he was still her Daddy. She was anxious to hug his neck and give him a kiss before being transported to prison. When the local Hardin County Official came to transport **Inmate "B"**, the girl's mother asked if her daughter could have 5 minutes to say her Goodbye, give him a Kiss and Hug his neck. The prompt reply was, "**NO!** I'm not in charge of visits. I'm in charge of transporting". The young girl cried as she watched her daddy being led away in chains. Just punishment or not, all the 9 year old wanted was a little Mercy and Understanding. But she would receive none from the local official.

I had been silent during the whole ordeal, mostly for legal reasons. For one, you can't interfere with a transportation officer while in the process of initiating a transportation order. However, later that week I confronted the local Official with his merciless treatment of the young girl. I actually paraphrased **James 2:13** this way. "**He who shows NO Mercy - Will receive NO Mercy**". He did not receive my confrontation with an appreciative heart. But, I was not a 9 year old little girl or a convicted Felon. I was a well known State and Local Correctional Chaplain and he was a local politician. So he took my confrontation with disgust, but without argument.

That Official is no longer around today. Unfortunately, he suffered many unspeakable personal tragedies before his painful death. Much more tragic than the young daughter. I went to the official's bed side to have prayer for him. He cordially received me, and I asked God for Mercy on his behalf.

Both **Inmate "B"** and the official are now dead. Soon the rest of us will join their ranks in physical body death. But each Christian has an Eternal Spiritual body waiting for our arrival (*1st Cor.15:44*). God's Mercy through His Son Jesus, is the Key to the location of our Eternal dwelling home. Life offers many choices. Being merciful to others and loving as Jesus Loves us is the wisest choice any of us can make.

Your Pastor Loves You