

# Give to All Who Ask

*Give to the one who asks you for something.*

MATTHEW 5:42

Written by Bill Perkins

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The crowd on the hillside heard a call  
that reached deeper than possessions.  
It reached into mercy,  
into how we respond  
when someone asks for help.

It comes right after His instruction  
to go the second mile.  
Both commands push past instinct.  
Both expose the places  
where self-protection rules.

Jericho gives us a picture  
of that kind of ask.

The road into the city was crowded.  
People moved with Jesus,  
trying to stay close.

Somewhere in the noise,  
a voice rose above the movement:  
“Son of David, have mercy on me.”

Another voice answered back:  
“Be quiet.”

The collision was immediate:  
a plea coming from desperation,  
a rebuke coming from irritation,  
people around Jesus  
trying to shut him down.

Jesus stopped.

He called the man forward.

“What do you want Me to do for you?”

“I want to see.”

And Jesus gave him sight. Lu 18:35–43

Later, leaving the city,

two more voices rose with the same cry:

“Have mercy on us.”

Again, the demand for silence.

Again, the push to quiet them.

But desperation cried louder.

And Jesus heard the cry.

This is the world behind His command.

A need rises.

Something inside tightens.

We hope the moment will pass.

We feel the urge to look away.

In that moment,

Christ within calls:

“Follow Me.”

Compassion awakens

in places we didn’t expect.

His presence steadies us.

As we draw near to Him,

we extend a helping hand.

Jesus isn’t telling us

to give away everything we own.

Nothing in this moment

points to giving away possessions.

Savings aren’t the issue.

The command is about kindness.

Hearing the cry

some want to silence.

It’s about reaching

the person who asks

because Jesus reached them first.

It's about giving  
to the one in need  
what the King first gave us—  
mercy that stops,  
mercy that listens,  
mercy that answers.

What rises in me when someone asks for help,  
and how is Jesus inviting me  
toward mercy  
instead of self-protection?

This command reaches into places I resist.  
Jesus moves toward the one in need,  
and He calls me to follow Him there.

Father, let mercy rise in me.  
Steady what shakes inside.  
Teach me to move toward the one who asks.  
In Jesus' name, amen.