

MERCY IN DOTHAN

⁷ *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

Matthew 5:7

¹⁷ *But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.*

James 3:17 (NLT)

I. Mercy in Dothan

* Dothan meant the city of two cisterns.

A. Cistern one / Joseph's heart was broken and his life fell apart in Dothan.
(Genesis 37:17-20)

¹⁷ *"They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. ¹⁸ But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. ¹⁹ "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. ²⁰ "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."*

B. It would be 21 years before Joseph's brothers' eyes were opened to experience the pain they caused Joseph in Dothan.

C. Mercy was extended through Joseph to his brothers, from Dothan.

D. Joseph's coat was stolen in Dothan. 21 years later Joseph would extend mercy to his brothers while wearing Pharaoh's coat.

E. Extend mercy to your enemies in this season.
(Proverbs 24:17-18; Romans 12:19)

[Pro 24:17-18 NIV] ¹⁷ *Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice, ¹⁸ or the LORD will see and disapprove and turn his wrath away from them.*

[Rom 12:19 NIV] ¹⁹ *Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

II. Elisha, a prophet of mercy

A. Cistern two / Enemies are forgiven from Dothan. (II Kings 6:13-17)

¹³ *“Go, find out where he is,” the king ordered, “so I can send men and capture him.” The report came back: “He is in Dothan.”* ¹⁴ *Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.* ¹⁵ *When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.* ¹⁶ *“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”* ¹⁷ *And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

B. Eyes are being opened and closed. Elisha prays that God would open the eyes of his servant to see the hosts of heaven. (Psalm 27:3)

³ *Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.*

C. Elisha prays for God to blind his enemies and leads them all to a covenant feast. (II Kings 6:18-23)

¹⁸ *As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, “Strike this army with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.* ¹⁹ *Elisha told them, “This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for.” And he led them to Samaria.* ²⁰ *After they entered the city, Elisha said, “LORD, open the eyes of these men so they can see.” Then the LORD opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria.* ²¹ *When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, “Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?”* ²² *“Do not kill them,” he answered. “Would you kill those you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master.”* ²³ *So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel’s territory.*

D. What a coat. / Elisha was clothed with the very “hosts of heaven” that had carried Elijah to heaven. (II Kings 2:11,12)

¹¹ As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹² Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

- E. Elisha’s mercy distinguished him from Elijah.
- F. A season of extended mercy is upon us; flow with it.
- G. All the cisterns you have dug in mercy will be filled with mercy.
- H. There is a unique crown that is going to be given to those who have dug their cisterns in merciful obedience to God, and not to find treasure for themselves.



