

Prov 14:22

*Do they not go astray who devise evil?
But mercy and truth belong to those who devise good.*

Below is a snippet from and news article in Israel.

Arab mother cried for mercy, they responded - and she murdered them.

Additional details of yesterday's murderous terrorist bombing in northern Gaza that claimed the lives of four Israelis paint a frightful picture of a woman who cried for mercy - and seconds later coldly murdered those who bestowed it upon her.

We read things like this and wonder how could anyone do something like this. But before we get to hard on this woman, we need to examine our own hearts first. Do we not cry out to God for mercy when we have messed up? However, do we show mercy to others afterwards?

Before you answer that, read this parable from Jesus.

† **Matthew 18:23-35** **Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.'**

So ask God for mercy in your life, but also give it to others.

† **Luke 10:37b** **Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."**