

'LORD HAVE MERCY' – REFLECTION

The notes in my Bible describe mercy as “Active Compassion”, and 14yrs ago, Mick and I were led into a much deeper understanding of God’s mercy.

Our precious son Paul had been killed in a senseless knife attack, and God’s mercy became evermore real, as four years later, I was invited into Liverpool prison to share our story with 14 men on a Restorative Justice course run by Prison Fellowship called “Sycamore Tree”

As I walked to the prison gate, I prayed for God’s strength and help. I was shown to the Chapel where the course was held, and as the men filed in, the tears began to flow.

I sobbed my way thro’ our story, but as I began to share about God’s love and comfort, the tears dried up. They listened intently as I told them Mick and I had forgiven the men who killed our son.

The whole atmosphere changed when I spoke about Forgiveness. I saw God’s mercy, (His “Active compassion”) in action, and hope fill the room. My heart was changed as I was deeply touched.

I learned later they were all from the “Lifer Unit”, they had all taken lives, yet God graciously filled me with His love for them. He reached out to them just as He did to the thief on the cross beside Him.

God gave us fresh eyes to see beyond “the prisoner”, and to see as He sees. Broken people. People who are lost and who desperately need the Lord. Psalm 136 v 1 says:

“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. For His mercy endures forever”

Lyn Connolly