

# Proverbs 21:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

## Analysis

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Those who ignore the poor's cries for help will themselves cry out unanswered in their time of need. This is the law of reciprocity: God governs the world such that we reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7). Refusing mercy to those in need hardens one's heart and forfeits divine mercy. Jesus taught this principle repeatedly: the unmerciful servant, the rich man and Lazarus, the sheep and goats judgment. God identifies with the poor (Proverbs 19:17); to oppress them is to despise their Maker. The merciful receive mercy; the hard-hearted encounter only justice. This doesn't earn salvation but reflects the changed heart that true conversion produces. Those who have received God's mercy naturally extend mercy to others.

## Historical Context

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Mosaic law included extensive provisions for the poor—gleaning rights, debt forgiveness, prohibitions against oppression. Israel's failure to observe these contributed to exile and judgment.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. Do you respond generously to those in genuine need, or do you harden your heart?
2. How does receiving God's mercy in salvation compel you to show mercy to others?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאָזֶן	אֶלְאֶן	מִעֲלָת	לְ	זֶה	וְאָזֶן	אֶלְאֶן
<b>Whoso stoppeth</b>	<b>his ears</b>	<b>at the cry</b>	<b>of the poor</b>	H1571	H1931	<b>he also shall cry</b>
H331	H241	H2201	H1800			H7121
אַל־	וְעַתָּה:					
H3808	<b>himself but shall not be heard</b>	H6030				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 1:28** (Parallel theme): Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

**Matthew 6:14** (Parallel theme): For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

**Matthew 7:2** (Parallel theme): For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

**Proverbs 28:27** (Parallel theme): He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.