

## Have Mercy

Steve Earle

He was standin' on the corner  
A hundred dollar bill in his hand  
Said, "I could feed a lot of these people with this  
But that ain't the business at hand"

Ain't but one reason for a white boy to be  
Over on this side of town  
He gave that money to the man and he  
Bought a little mercy for now

Have mercy on me  
Have mercy on me  
I'm a sinner Lord, can't you see?  
Have mercy on me

Old Joe don't know how it got started  
I guess it was the fire in her eyes  
He loved his wife and children  
And he wasn't into telling all these lies

But she gave herself so freely  
In that room at the top of the stairs  
He'd go to her in hope he'd find a little mercy there

Tears were made to fall  
Hearts made to break  
Sometimes it feels  
Like they just want to know  
How much you can take

She was all alone that evening  
What was she thinking about?  
Her mind was made up and  
I guess it was the only way out

There's a pistol in a pawn shop window  
Made of cold, blue steel  
She took it home to find out  
How warm a little mercy could feel

God knows that mercy ain't free  
Have mercy on me