

# Vessels of Mercy

***'But go and learn  
what this means: "I desire mercy  
and not sacrifice." For I did not  
come to call the righteous, but  
sinners, to repentance'***

**(Mt.9:13)**

**Mercy shines against a backdrop of  
deserving judgment**

***'They refused to obey, and they were not mindful of Your wonders that You did among them. But they hardened their necks, and in their rebellion they appointed a leader to return to their bondage. But You are God, ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness, and did not forsake them'***

**(Neh.9:17)**

**The person, like the Pharisee, who  
does not believe they deserve  
judgment will never find mercy**

**We are either vessels of mercy or  
vessels of destruction**

## **The mercy of God is His very glory**

***'And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation"'***

**(Ex.33:19)**



**'It is great mercy. There is nothing little in God; his mercy is like himself – it is infinite. You cannot measure it. His mercy is so great that it forgives great sins to great sinners, after great lengths of time, and then gives great favours and great privileges, and raises us up to great enjoyments in the great heaven of the great God...**

**...It is undeserved mercy, as indeed all true mercy must be, for deserved mercy is only a misnomer for justice....It is abounding mercy. Millions have received it, yet far from its being exhausted; it is as fresh, as full, and as free as ever. It is unfailing mercy. It will never leave thee' (Spurgeon)**





**Jesus, being the image of God,  
embodies the mercy of God**

**He is our Mercy Seat.**

***'...whom God set  
forth as a propitiation by His blood...'  
(Rom.3:25)***

**Several translations have 'mercy seat'  
for propitiation**

**Because the word for 'propitiation' here  
is *hilasterion* which in Heb.9:5 is  
translated as 'mercy seat'**

***'...and above it were the cherubim of  
glory overshadowing the mercy seat...'***

**The word 'propitiation' appears twice  
in the first epistle of John**

***'If anyone sins, we have an Advocate  
with the Father, Jesus Christ the  
righteous. And He Himself is the  
propitiation for our sins, and not for  
ours only but also for the whole world'***  
**(1 John 2:2)**

**and**

***'In this is love, not that we loved God,  
but that He loved us and sent His Son  
to be the propitiation for our sins'***  
**(1 Jn.4:10)**

**The word John uses is *hilasmos* =  
propitiation**

***Hilastarion* and *hilasmos* are  
connected, yet they are distinct**

**The two are as different as the  
brazen altar and the mercy seat**

**An extraordinary thing about the mercy seat was its name**

**It was not a seat but a lid. There was no seat in the tabernacle. The priestly work was never finished**

***'Every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God'***

**(Heb.10:11-12)**

**Many times we read in the OT that God dwells between the wings of the cherubim. He rests in the finished work**

***'And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim'***  
**(2 Sam.6:2)**

*'Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth"'*

**(2 Kings 19:14)**

**God doesn't rest on a certain day of the week; He rests in the finished work of Christ**

**Also, it is only mentioned in two dimensions. It covered the ark perfectly**

**But there is no mention of its height**

***'He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him'***

**(Psa.103:10-11)**



**The cherubim faced each other and  
yet looked downward**

***'To them it was revealed that, not to  
themselves, but to us they were  
ministering the things which now  
have been reported to you through  
those who have preached the gospel  
to you by the Holy Spirit sent from  
heaven—things which angels desire  
to look into'***

**(1 Pet.1:11-12)**

**The wisdom of God's salvation is being made known to the angels by the Church**

***'...to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places'***  
**(Eph.3:10)**

***'We have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men'***  
**(1 Cor.4:9)**

**The mercy of God does not suggest in any way that God is light on sin**

**To stand before an uncovered ark is certain judgment**

***'Then He struck the men of Beth-Shemesh, because they looked into the ark of the LORD...And the men of Beth-Shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God?"'***

**(1 Sam.6:19-20)**

***'Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God'***

**(Heb.10:28-31)**

**To those who are vessels of mercy  
Jesus is a merciful High Priest**

***'Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people'  
(Heb.2:17)***

***'For I will be merciful to their  
unrighteousness, and their  
sins and their lawless deeds I will  
remember no more'***

**(Heb.8:12)**

***'Let us therefore come boldly to the  
throne of grace, that we may  
obtain mercy and find grace to help  
in time of need'***

**(Heb.4:16)**