

**GOD's Faithful Justice and Endless Mercy**

**I. A SCRIPTURE – MICAH 6:6-8**

6: Wherewith shall I come before The LORD,  
and bow myself before The High GOD?  
shall I come before Him with burnt offerings...?  
7: Will The LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
or with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
8: He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good;  
and what doth The LORD require of thee,  
but to do justly, and to love mercy,  
and to walk humbly with thy GOD. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 1, KJV, MICAH 6:6-8.

## **II. A Bitter Divide of Judgement and Unforgiveness**

AM was a middle aged man dying in the ICU. Joining his divorced parents at the bedside, the Doctor had just told them he expected their child to die soon. The mother covered her face, burst into tears and fell to the floor next to their son, sitting there sobbing.

The Doctor and I knelt down beside her. The father quietly began to shed his tears. I made a space for him to be closer to his ex-wife, she looking up at him invitingly. Sadly, he looked down at his ex-wife – the woman who bore their child – then turned and walked away without a word down the hall. They too grieved separately as their son was called Home to Heaven.

I ministered to them both equally in their chosen separate spaces as they wished, but was unable to facilitate even a transient bridging over The Cross of The Redeemer between them, in Whom they both believed. As their child passed on, they were unable to share a fuller healing of justice, mercy and humility with GOD and one another.

### **III. GOD’S Faithful Justice and Endless Mercy**

Saint Jerome lived from about 340 to 420 AD. He became a Catholic Priest and a renowned Church Father, translating The Hebrew and Greek Scriptures into Latin, the common language of the day in The West.<sup>2</sup>

He writes that GOD’s Love embraces both endless Mercy and faithful Justice. If GOD were only endlessly Merciful, He would be inviting us to sin – for where would the fear of His Justice be? If GOD were only faithfully Just, He would deny us any chance of forgiveness – for where would the hope of His Grace and Mercy be?<sup>3</sup>

So Jerome counsels, “If you are a sinner, heed The Mercy of GOD and do not despair, but... [repent]. If... you are just, do not grow careless because GOD is...” so forgiving. Remember that GOD is both endlessly Merciful and faithfully Just.<sup>4</sup>

For “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth The LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy GOD!”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> 3, Magnificat, “Saint Jerome - Memorial.” The Mass, Wednesday of The Twenty-sixth Week in Ordinary Time, September 2009, Volume 11, Number 7, p 401.

<sup>3</sup> 3, Adapted from Saint Jerome, “What it Means to Set Our hand to the Plow.” Magnificat, Meditation of The Day, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>, September 2009, Volume 11, Number 7, p 404.

<sup>4</sup> 3, Ibid., p 405.

<sup>5</sup> 2, KJV, MICAH 6:6-8.

#### **IV. To Be Channels of GOD's Endless Mercy**

Even for people of Faith, it is so easy to fall into Sin and remain there. We all at times will take up a stone to cast at my neighbour, when we should cast the first stone at ourselves.<sup>6</sup> That we at times take GOD's endless Mercy for granted and forget about GOD's faithful Justice as part of our Fallen Nature, for which The Lord came to earth, fully Divine and fully Man, but without sin. .

So it is good to be reminded periodically - because of our "inclination to Sin"<sup>7</sup> and especially when we serve in His Name by serving others in whatever form - of The Words of JESUS CHRIST in MATTHEW 7:12, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is The Law and the prophets."<sup>8</sup>

So with Saint Jerome we take hold of GOD's endless Mercy to forgo His Perfect Justice. And where ever He places us in our Works of Mercy in this life, may we be as a healing ointment of His Grace for those who are scared by lack of forgiveness – even ourselves! For "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth The LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy GOD!"<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> 2, KJV, JOHN 8:7.

<sup>7</sup> 4, CCC 1264, p 353-354.

<sup>8</sup> 2, KJV, MATTHEW 7:12.

<sup>9</sup> 2, KJV, MICAH 6:6-8.

**V. A Prayer**

The LORD be with you!  
And also with you!  
Let us pray.

Show me, O Lord, Your Mercy, and delight my heart with it. Let me find You Whom I so longingly seek. Behold, here is the man whom the robbers seized, manhandled, and left half dead on the road to Jericho. Kind-hearted Samaritan, come to my aid!

I am the sheep who wandered into the wilderness. Seek after me and bring me home again to Your Fold. Do with me according to Your Will, that I may abide with You all the days of my life, and praise You with all those who are with You in Heaven for all Eternity. AMEN. <sup>10</sup>

Let us go forth to love and serve The LORD!  
And perhaps even one another!  
Thanks be to GOD!

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<sup>10</sup> "A Prayer Before Confession." Saint Jerome. Our Catholic Prayers, paragraph 3.  
<http://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/st-jerome-before-confession.html>.

**VI. REFERENCES**

1. Strong's Lexicon. Bible Works 7. Bible Works, LLC. Norfolk, Virginia. 2006.
2. "King James Version [Bible]." Bible Works 7. Bible Works, LLC. Norfolk, Virginia. 2006.
3. "Magnificat." The Catholic Herald, Ltd. Yonkers, New York.
4. "Catechism of The Catholic Church." United States Catholic Conference. Doubleday of Random House, Inc. New York, London, Toronto, Sydney, Auckland. 1995.