

Volume 5, Day 2: Mercy Forgiveness Grace = Redemption

After watching the stolen silver scene in Les Miserables where the Bishop offered not just mercy and forgiveness but added grace (more silver), I decided to reread the whole Bible with sacred eyes. I have been a student of the word of God for decades. But rereading the entire Bible from the perspective of God's mercy, forgiveness and grace which are byproducts of his unconditional love for every human being, changed many of my misperceptions of God. My new perceptions changed my lifestyle as well.

I discovered that the Old Testament was not about judgment, condemnation and pure justice. It was about right living. I found in story after story, especially the sordid stories, that God's grace was at work. I began to see the entire Bible as the most amazing love story ever. Consider the stories of Job and Joseph who encountered enormous adversity and misery. Yet they knew and loved God in a deeply personal way. They didn't shake their fist at God in complaint, like I was so prone to do. They saw God at work promoting the glory of His love and participated with Him despite their own personal pain and misery. They were confident in God's purposes.

When God encountered the first murderer, Cain, He showed him mercy and actually withheld his due punishment. God even placed a mark of protection on Cain's forehead warning all that God would do seven times worse to them than they did toward Cain. It is not that God doesn't get angry about our evil and mean wrongs toward one another. It is that God made us to love us and that we would love God and each other. Just as we, who are not God, love even our wayward children, He loves all of His children, even the wayward ones.

Your parents may not have been good at all, but don't consider God as an **imperfect** parent such as human parents may be. By simply believing that God Himself, in the person of His Only Begotten Son, Jesus, paid the penalty for you. Forgiveness is simply letting God "pay it forward" (the penalty for your sin [crimes against relationship]) to Jesus.

My Confirming Scriptures and Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan