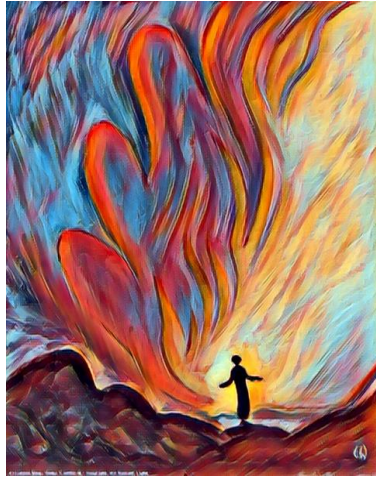


MERCY AND JUDGMENT



Jesus said,

“I came to cast fire on the earth!”

The fire of unspeakable love.

The fire of terrifying judgment.

One fire, not two.

Jesus always holds the two mysteries together.

He never separates judgment from mercy.

He never separates mercy from judgment.

If my face is toward God, I see blazing love.

If my face is turned away from God, I see a consuming fire.

Mercy

“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come.”

Mercy

“Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.’ But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.”

Judgment

“The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy’.”

Mercy

“Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.”



Judgment

“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.

Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’

For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Matthew 22



Whenever we take these two mysteries and split them apart, we end up with empty vapor.

Without judgment, mercy becomes flabby and weak.

Without mercy, judgment becomes cruel and vindictive.

***“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth (on the cross),
will draw all people to myself.” (John 12)***

All people.

Everyone who has ever been born.

Sooner or later, somewhere somehow, Jesus promises that we are all drawn to the redeeming cross.

We are all invited to enter into God’s heart of mercy.

If we reject mercy,

If we refuse to live mercy,

We condemn ourselves.

At this moment Mercy holds the door wide open.

***“Come to me all you who labor and are heavy-laden,
and I will give you rest.***

***Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.***

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11



Message: REB June 2021

Featured Art: Art in public domain and a Full of Eyes still edited using GoArt app

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the inseparable fires of your holiness....mercy and judgment. Lord, may we ever be aware of the fire you have cast upon this earth. Draw us to the fire of your holy mercy and judgment. May we keep our faces turned towards your blazing mercy and love and never take your mercy lightly. May we truly enter into your heart of mercy...embracing it with all we have. May we honor your call, your invitation, to us strangers, by dressing ourselves in joy, thankfulness, and the same mercy you have extended to us. Amen.

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN