



## God of mercy

The Lord has been ministering to my heart for some time about who He is as the **God of mercy**. If you don't know His mercy intimately from the heart, you will not be able to approach Him with the kind of boldness that Moses and the prophets had, the boldness that is necessary to turn His heart. These and others approached God boldly because they knew that His mercy could be awakened and touched.

### Judgment: God's Strange Act

Some people have the idea that God's most dominant characteristic is judgment. Well, that's not quite true. It says in Isaiah 28:21, "For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wrath as in the valley of Gibeon; that he may do his work, his strange work (Heb/zur, strange; foreign), and bring to pass his act, his strange act (Heb/nakri, strange act)."

It goes on in Lamentations 3:31-33, "For the Lord will not cast off for ever. For though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies (Heb/rav chesed). For he does not afflict willingly (Heb/from the heart, mi lev)." God doesn't afflict from His heart. It's His strange act. He does it because His righteousness and holiness demand it, but this is not how God desires to act toward His children. That is precisely what Moses understood. After Israel worshiped the golden calf, "the LORD said to Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: now, therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of you a great nation." Exodus 32:9-10

### God Repents

Now, listen to this: "And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why is your wrath waxing hot against your people, which you have brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against your people." Exodus 32:11-12

Moses is calling on God to repent!

Moses continues, "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and you said to them, I will multiply your seed."

Listen to what happens: "And the LORD repented of the evil which he said he would do to his people." Exodus 32:13-14

God repented. In Hebrew it's the word nacham.

The word, nacham, means to sigh, to be sorry, or to be compassionate. God's whole being can sigh and be sorrowful because of evil but He also sighs in compassion because He doesn't want to destroy. It is His strange act. He doesn't do it from His heart.

The Lord is able to be so deeply touched that He will change His plan to destroy a nation.

God says to Jeremiah: "At the minute I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up and to break down and to destroy it; if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turn from their evil, I will repent (*I will be sorry and I will show compassion*) of the evil that I thought to do to them." Jeremiah 18:7-10

The Lord wants us to be a repentant people. He wants us to be a people of His mercy, His sigh. How are we going to become merciful if we don't understand that the Lord's essential nature is mercy? He wants our essential nature to be mercy, not judgment.

"It may be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way; that I may repent of the evil, which I purpose to do to them because of the evil of their doings." Jeremiah 26:3. In other words, He wants us to repent so that He can repent and change His way towards us. It's in God's heart to repent and show mercy.

"As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live:" Ezekiel 33:11

"Yet even now, says the LORD, turn to me (*Heb/return to me*) with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness, and he repents of the evil." Joel 2:12-13

### **Jonah: The Mercy of God**

Beloved, God sighs in sorrow because of evil and when we turn from our evil way, He shows mercy. That's why God sent Jonah. It seems Jonah didn't want God to show mercy to Ninevah. He didn't understand God's heart for the people of Ninevah. So in the belly of the whale, God wanted Jonah to experience what real judgment is. In order for you to intercede like Moses or like the prophets, you have to understand God's heart of mercy, that He doesn't delight in judgment. Jonah finally obeys and proclaims to Ninevah: In 40 days you are going to be destroyed and the people respond from the top level down:

"But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God: yes, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent/sigh in compassion, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not." Jonah 3:8-9

Even the pagans knew that God can turn away His fierce anger and show mercy. How much more ought we, the people of God know that God delights in mercy. He doesn't delight in judgment. He doesn't judge the world with a sinister sneer of satisfaction on His face. He didn't destroy man and beast by the flood with a snicker. He sighed in pain and sorrow.

### **Trust in God's Mercy**

In 1 Kings 8:23 "he said, O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above, or on earth beneath; who keeps covenant and mercy with your servants, that walk before you with all their heart." The difference between the true God of Israel and the gods of the nations is that He is a God who keeps covenant and mercy. This is what makes Him different from every other god! We, His people can approach Him with this deep assurance in our deep heart.

Psalm 52:8 "I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever."

Do you trust in His judgments, Beloved, or do you trust in His mercy? He can change, repent and sigh and turn to us with His plenteous mercy!

Micah 7:18 "Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in lovingkindness."

God delights in mercy. He doesn't delight in judgment.

### **Mercy and 9/11**

I was in New York City during 9/11. David Wilkerson was my pastor for many years and we at Times Square Church were being prepared every week hearing about the judgments coming to New York. Judgment! Judgment! Judgment! About two months before 9/11, the pastors sensed that something serious was coming to New York City. They didn't know what it was, but they knew something very serious was on the way. The Holy Spirit began to hover over the whole congregation like a thick blanket of His holy presence for some months before the Twin Towers fell.

We were meeting every single night. The Holy Spirit was moving and the place was packed. People came to pray for hours. Sometimes we sat for an hour in silence, a holy repentant silence. Then suddenly we would all hear somebody cry. I remember the time David Wilkerson was sitting on the stage and he suddenly fell off his chair on his face in front of more than a thousand people praying. He was weeping and screaming like a pregnant woman giving birth. The sound of his voice was terrifying. I never heard a man cry like that, like a woman giving birth. He was crying out to God for mercy.

9/11 came and we were not shocked. We had been prepared. A couple of thousand people lost their lives, but I am convinced that thousands upon thousands more would have perished in that terror attack when the Twin Towers fell. The numbers were nowhere near the amount that would have died if we had not entreated God with deep sorrow and repentance. After the attack, for months we heard testimony after testimony of people who at the last minute before they left for work at the Twin Towers suddenly got sick or got delayed or decided to stay home or didn't catch their train or bus on time. There was mercy!!! God had heard our repentance.

I remember during one of the holy heavy silences. I heard the audible voice of God say to me, I want you to repent for what the Whites have done to the Blacks in America. I immediately thought, ME, Lord? I've never been a racist. But suddenly I experienced God's heart and I began to weep and weep and weep. I grabbed the little black girl sitting next to me. I didn't know what else to do. I just grabbed her and took her into my bosom. I was sobbing because I felt the pain in God's heart!

There are so many things in God's heart right now.

Why has this plague come on the globe? Listen, forget whether you are vaccinated or not. That is NOT the main issue. The enemy is using it to divide us. He is using it to bring his evil agenda to the whole world. God has been trying to speak to His people... WHERE ARE THE PROPHETS? David Wilkerson at least knew that something serious was coming and we were in a solemn assembly repenting and seeking God for months! Beloved, we need to get serious with the Lord. I have been praying with others of like-spirit, seeking His heart, asking for this plague to be lifted and I believe He will show us His mercy.

### **Vessels of Mercy**

God repents when He sees His people repenting. We have been pressing in. We are asking for mercy and praying for a revival. We have been boldly approaching His throne of grace. We are seeing, like Moses and Jonah, that God delights to show us His mercy.

“And he (*Jonah*) prayed to the LORD, and said, I pray, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before to Tarshish: for I knew that you are a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and you repent of the evil.” Jonah 4:2

God sent the prophet Jonah so that Jonah would change! He wanted Jonah to warn Ninevah of imminent judgment from a broken heart of mercy so they would turn and be spared. The Lord wants us to turn. He wants us to be vessels of mercy and forgiveness toward one another so there won't be any division. Division in the Body, division in families, division among friends, division! He wants to change us. He desires to conform us to Himself. He wants to make us tenderhearted, repentant and full of mercy.

“For we have not an high priest (*Jesus*) which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 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. 4:15-16

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