

Jesus, the Mercy Seat of God

Is it possible to truly understand the fathomless love and mercy of our God without first understanding His perfect justice?



When God created Adam, father of the human race, He conferred on him those great gifts of sanctifying grace, integrity and immortality, not merely as personal gifts but as gifts to the whole human race as well. When Adam sinned he lost these gifts for himself and for all mankind. Only Mary, though a daughter of Adam, was preserved from that loss by Divine Intent and Mercy because she was destined to mother the New Adam who would restore sanctifying grace to the whole human family. The loss of integrity and immortality would remain as the just wages of that original sin but would be overcome in the final victory over sin and death with the coming of God's glory. No longer could man walk on earth with God amidst the beauty of the enclosed garden of paradise, nor keep intimate company with The Beloved Who had brought him forth from the depths of God's own Heart to be happy with Him forever. Henceforth, life would be a constant struggle to overcome the horrifying darkness of sin and its utter alienation from the very source of Light, Life and Love. So great was the chasm sin created between Creator and creature that it would take a God-man, one both divine and human, to bridge it and satisfy divine justice on behalf of humankind. Alas, Mercy will triumph over justice as the Father wills to send His only Begotten Son into our world to assume both our human nature and our human debt of sin so all who accept and believe in His Son might be restored to a sanctifying grace more wondrous than the first, and to intimate communion of life with God greater than before. "O felix culpa! O happy fault to merit so great a Redeemer!"

Until that fullness of time should come, God made His Presence known to His chosen people through prophets and priests and established a covenant with them. He gave them His law carved in stone and bade them build a tabernacle for Him, a tent as His dwelling place. They were to place in its sacred chamber, the Holy of Holies, the Ark of the Covenant containing the tablets of the law, manna from heaven that fed them in the desert, and the rod of Aaron of the house of Levi, the tribe in which He established the priesthood to offer sacrifice to Him and to mediate on behalf of the people. The lid of the Ark was made of gold and upon it, facing each other, were two cherubim. In that space between the angels and above those sacred things was the mercy seat of God where He spoke with and through the high priest to His people. To make His Presence visible to all the people, He journeyed with them in a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

In the fullness of time, the Word took flesh in the womb of the Immaculate Virgin Mother and became man for the precise purpose of dying in our place to reconcile us

with our God. Who can fathom the love of a God who would condemn His only Son to a most vile and shameful death upon a cross, crucified by the very creatures His love had made for heavenly things. The very rage of hell and every despicable sin committed from the beginning of time to the end of it was laid upon that Sacred Body of His dear Son and tore into that sacred flesh until there was no spot untouched by the whips of cruelty and hate, and until every drop of Precious Blood was drained from those sacred veins to spill out upon the earth so all creatures might come to drink of it and live. Each of us was present to Christ as our own sins of the flesh battered His delicate and pure, sinless flesh; as our sins of pride and disobedience mocked his incomprehensible humility and obedience, even to death on a cross for our sakes.

St. Faustina's Diary, **DIVINE MERCY IN MY SOUL**, extols the unfathomable mercy of our God. **"The greater our misery, the greater our right to God's mercy Jesus says."** Why? Because The Christ has already perfectly satisfied the demand of divine justice for all sin and opened for us the floodgates of Heaven's boundless mercy to every soul on the condition that it asks for it. Asking implies we know we need it.

In Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil's much shorter Diary, **OUR LADY OF AMERICA**®, Jesus addresses the tension between God's perfect justice and His infinite mercy in our own times. The enormity of our evil generation's sins and rejection of grace cry out to Heaven for judgment and correction. Not only did Jesus stoop so low as to take on our sinful human nature and endured immense suffering to atone for our sins, but now He stoops to beg us for some bit of love in return, some acknowledgement that we need His mercy. Imagine, God begging a creature for love. He gave us His own Mother on Calvary but we do not heed her voice crying out for a reform of life and a turning away from sin. Jesus sends her again and still we do not listen. We legalize sin and parade it in our streets. Some wretched souls even chant praise to Satan while condemning those who choose to praise and obey God. We are on the brink of self-destruction and give no thought to the inevitable judgment which always comes, ready or not. We reject the only One who can save us, but He cannot save us against our will. Free will is a wondrous **and** a terrible thing! Though divine justice was satisfied once and for all in Jesus' sacrifice, each generation and each person must personally claim that justification by accepting the grace of redemption and choosing to do the Father's will in all things, living in His Holy Spirit of Truth and Love. Saints privileged to have visions of our dear Lord's Passion tell us His greatest agony was to see so many souls lost, especially souls of the chosen ones, in spite of the terrible agony He endured for us. Hear the anguish in Jesus' own words! One must wonder if mercy can last forever?

I am a Beggar for love, but how few give to Me the means by which to satisfy My divine hunger. I hunger for the love of My own, and I receive only the crumbs no other would accept.

My Father is angry. If My children will not listen to My Heart, which is a Voice of mercy and instruction, punishment will come swiftly and no one shall be able to stay it. The pleadings of My Heart have held back the divine justice about to descend upon an ungrateful and sinful generation.

....My Heart grieves over My children in the world. Their hearts are being drawn farther and farther away from Me. They will not even listen to My Mother, because they have never been taught to listen.

Return, My people, for My Heart hungers and thirsts for your love. If you will not return, the just anger of My Father will descend upon you. What would you—My love or My Father's anger? Choose, and as you choose, so shall it be done. I will not force your free will, for that is yours to use as you desire.

O man, what have I done to you that you should refuse My aid?...The Voice of My Heart is the Voice of Mercy. If man will not listen, there is no more I can do, for he ties My hands....My little white dove, if the world is dying, it is because it will not let Me give it life. I am the resurrection and the life, and unless souls seek their life in Me, they will find only death and destruction.

(Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA©, Pgs. 4-7.)

Scientists who have studied the engineering of a Roman crucifixion tell us a piece of wood was nailed to the vertical beam of the cross to form a crude seat to bear the weight of Jesus' Body lest the weight tear His Body from the cross where the nails were driven through His wrists. Of course, this, too, was meant to prolong His suffering. O here is the true Mercy Seat of God, where Divine Mercy is made visible and is poured out in testimony to God's infinite love. No soul is beyond His reach. Even Judas would have been forgiven if he had asked for mercy. Here hangs the New Adam who offers new life to all God's creatures. The Mercy Seat on the Ark of the Covenant in the Hebrew Holy of Holies is a mere shadow of this seat where Jesus reigns as Mercy Itself on His throne of mercy on the Tree of Life on Calvary's hill, a tree whose roots descend to the depths of the earth and whose branches tower to the heights of the heavens. This Tree of Life beckons all to come and taste of its fruit and to rest in its branches, to seek shelter in that Heart at its center, broken open so we might enter in. God wills every day should be a Mercy Sunday and bids us bring to him all who are too sick with sin to come on their own. He asks us to put no limits on His mercy but to plead His Blood to cover and cleanse the whole world of its sins so there will no longer be souls lost in spite of His agony. Amazing grace! The Mercy Seat flows from the Ark to the cross to the confessional where again Jesus sits on a throne of mercy to heal the repentant sinner.

**Let us pray with the tears of our Mother and the Blood of our Savior
for the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls
so not one more soul should be lost forever.**

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