

Earthen Vessels

Jeffrey Honore and John Foley, SJ

We hold a treasure, not made of gold,
In earthen vessels, wealth untold,
One treasure only: the Lord, the Christ,
In earthen vessels.

Light has shone in our darkness:
God has shown in our heart,
With the light of the glory
of Jesus, the Lord.

He has chosen the lowly,
who are small in this world;
In his weakness is glory,
in Jesus the Lord.



Prayer Leader:

Mary Beth Marquard, HM
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The Mercy of a Tender- hearted God



Our prayer is characterized by silence ~

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.

God is present in all our lives.

God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

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An Interfaith Ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine

To Ponder:

Joan Chittister, *God's Tender Mercy*

Mercy discounts the economic sense of love and faith and care for a person and lives out of a divine sense of love instead. Mercy gives a human being who does not “deserve” love, love. And why? Because, the Scriptures answer, God knows of what we are made.

The fact is that we are all made of clay, the dust of the earth, the frail, fragile, shapeless thing from which we come and to which we will all return some day. We are all capable of the same things. Our only hope is that when we are all sitting somewhere bereft, exposed, outcast, humiliated and rejected by the rest of society, someone, somewhere will “reach out a hand and lift us up.”

Mercy is the trait of those who realize their own weakness enough to be kind to those who are struggling with theirs. It is, as well, the measure of the God-life in us. The mercy we show to others is what assures us that we do not need to worry about being perfect ourselves. All we really need to do is to make the effort to be the best we can be, knowing we will often fail.

Then, the mercy of others, the mercy of God is certain for us, as well.

Reading:

Joyce Rupp, *Inviting God In*

Loving God, bathe me in your mercy.
Clear my heart of old battles and stubborn resentments.
Help me to see with your merciful eyes,
to love with your incredible love.

Gracious God, I long to absorb fully
your compassionate love.

Open my heart to accept the fresh beginning
that your merciful love offers me.

Merciful God, thank you for those who stood by me
when I was miserable and in pain.
I want to draw near with compassionate attention
to all those needing my presence
in their time of anguish and suffering.

Sharing. . .

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...