Mercy Beyond Borders:

CCOP Encounters The Redeemer

January 14, 2016
### Table Of Contents

I. Gathering Hymn  
II. Opening Prayer  
III. Where We Have Been and Where Are We Going  
IV. Jesus “The Living Face Of Mercy Of The Father”  
V. Not the Cross but the Crucified  
VI. The Basis For Mercy In Action  
VII. Topics For Discussion  
VII. Bibliography  
IX. Sending Forth
I. Gathering Hymn

Hold Us In Your Mercy
(see song sheet)
II. Opening Prayer

God our Father,

Your Son is the living face of mercy. “He committed no sin, He was guilty of no falsehood. When he was abused He did not retaliate. When He suffered, He uttered no threats.” As the living face of mercy, “He always loved those who were His own in the world and He loved them to the end.” May His attitude of mercy be ours and may His merciful behavior be ours. May we seek to offer mercy as we receive mercy. May we be merciful towards ourselves, our families, in our community and toward the stranger. We are called to be a people of mercy. Through Christ the living face of mercy in the world.

Amen
III. Where We Have Been and Where Are We Going

• Holy Year of Mercy
• Mercy is on the border
• Situate Mercy in the center
III. Where We Have Been and Where Are We Going

- Exodus 34: 5-9
  - Mercy is an expression of Divine Love
  - Love precedes justice
  - The attribute Mercy precedes justice
- Repentance is woven into Mercy
- Mercy is God’s intimate accompaniment
IV. Jesus “The Living Face Of Mercy Of The Father”

How does Jesus “Receive” mercy? Does this have a face?

• Does God offer mercy?
• Does God receive mercy?
IV. Jesus “The Living Face Of Mercy Of The Father”

How does Jesus “Receive” mercy? Does this have a face?

Luke 7: 37-50: Mercy from the Sinful Woman

(44) Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for your feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered. You did not anoint my head with oil but she anointed my feet with ointment. So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven. She has shown great love.
IV. Jesus “The Living Face Of Mercy Of The Father”

How does Jesus “Receive” mercy? Does this have a face?

John 19: 38-42: Joseph of Arimathea cares for Jesus’ body
(38) Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about 100 pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices according to Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.
IV. Jesus “The Living Face Of Mercy Of The Father”

How does Jesus “Receive” mercy? Does this have a face?

• He receives mercy out of the face that understands the need for mercy (Sinful Woman)
• He receives Mercy from the one who struggles with identifying as merciful (Joseph of Arimathea).
IV. Jesus “The Living Face Of Mercy Of The Father”
How does Jesus “Receive” mercy? Does this have a face?
• Righteous mercy is about growing the relationship
• The self – righteous need no mercy
IV. Jesus “The Living Face Of Mercy Of The Father”

How does Jesus “Act” with mercy? What does this face look like?

• How do we exact mercy rather than retribution?
• How are we to forgive without losing our sense of self.
• How do we gain wholeness and bring salvation to wrongdoing.
IV. Jesus “The Living Face Of Mercy Of The Father”
Remember Exodus 34
Mercy is offered as:
• Covenant – not random
• Expression – reveals the mysterious depth of the bond
• Restoration – does not repair but strengthens the bond
• Justice – mercy calls for repentance
V. Not the Cross but the Crucified

“He committed no sin, He was guilty of no falsehood. When He was abused He did not retaliate. When He suffered, He uttered no threats” (1 Peter 2:22-23).

“He always loved those who were His own in the world and He loved them to the end.” (John 13: 1B).
V. Not the Cross but the Crucified

When we are victimized and treated wrongly:

• Two types of self awareness
• Each type of self awareness exhibits two patterns of behavior
V. Not the Cross but the Crucified

A situation can be accepted (Self Awareness)
Negative Acceptance (Pattern of Behavior)

• Fatalism
• Despair
• Resignation
• Frustration
V. Not the Cross but the Crucified

A situation can be accepted (Self Awareness)
Positive Acceptance (Pattern of Behavior)
• Stoicism
• Emotional containment
• Self control
• Interior self possession without emanation
• You’re “an island”
V. Not the Cross but the Crucified
A situation CAN NOT be accepted (Self Awareness)
Negative Non Acceptance (Type of Behavior)
• Rebellion
• Powerlessness
• Anger
• Exhibitionism
V. Not the Cross but the Crucified

A situation CAN NOT be accepted (Self Awareness)

Positive Non Acceptance (Type of Behavior)

- Self-affirmation
- Seeing the situation as it is
- Conviction of the will
- No denial
- Meaningful behavior in a meaningless situation
- Right sizing a situation
VI. Positive Non-Acceptance Is The Basis For Mercy In Action
VI. Positive Non-Acceptance Is The Basis For Mercy In Action

Where have we seen positive non acceptance in action?

• God’s attitude toward the People Israel when he appears as mercy (Exodus 34).
• The Sinful Woman’s treatment of Jesus (Luke 7).
VI. Positive Non-Acceptance Is The Basis For Mercy In Action

Where have we seen positive non acceptance in action?

• Joseph of Arimathea as he took Jesus from the cross to anoint him (John 19).
• Jesus’ behavior as the one crucified/victimized.
VI. Positive Non-Acceptance Is The Basis For Mercy In Action

In the end... Who is in control?
- The aggressor or the wrongdoer?
- The observer?
- The one who is filled with Mercy...
VII. Topics For Discussion

- When did you seek mercy and experience self-righteous refusal? How did you move forward?
- When did you seek mercy, offer repentance and experience forgiveness?
- When were you the object of wrong doing and refuse any mercy? Why?
- When were you the object of wrong doing and offer mercy?
VIII. Bibliography

IX. Sending Forth
Loving & Forgiving