

# Wrath & Mercy

Lamentations 3:22

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Media Reference Number GS 592 May 25, 2016

If we decide what God is like we will put together a mental picture of a God that is different than what the Bible teaches and in turn be guilty of idolatry.

*There is a vast difference between saying what God is like and accepting how God has described Himself to be.*

## What is God like?

His absolute perfection and holiness, that God makes no mistakes

Oceans in His Hand

Isaiah 40:12-14 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span...Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or *as* His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and *who* instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?

# Wrath & Mercy

Under-emphasized is His wrath

Under-appreciated would be His mercy

Only mercy: we will see a very soft, almost frail, pushover  
We will take advantage of God, we will neglect His grace

Only wrath: we will assume that He is a very cruel & angry God who is dangerous and hard hearted.

**Note: In His holiness, He makes no mistakes.**

No matter how you feel or what world you were born into, The Lord is radically in love with you!

That our knowledge of God tonight would grow *a little wider and a whole lot deeper*

## The Wrath of God

**His wrath, it is His ability to completely annihilate anything at any time without needing permission or approval to do so.**

- It is who He is, He is not limited by anything or anyone.
- It is the absolute annihilation of sin and evil and wickedness.
- It is the complete destruction of all that is not godly.

*We don't see it because we are living in a day that is dripping with His grace  
God still hates sin as much as in the days of Noah or Sodom & Gomorrah.*

Hand with water and then, splat

Eiffel Tower

WWII (Tall Boy)

*August 6<sup>th</sup> 1945 @ 8:15am*

*9,000 lb. bomb = 15,000 tons of TNT leveled 5 square miles instantaneously.*

*- killed 80,000 people instantly*

All the world's ammunition would be like throwing a grain of sand at a bear.

He would laugh at us...

He does not tolerate sin...

*He may be patient but He is not tolerant or approving.*

The Wrath of God

Matthew 21:12-13

Not only is it clear what He is upset about but also who He is mad at...

God does not hide from anyone.

Stepped into a church that had the name of God written the outside and maybe the right reputation but inside was full of sin and darkness.

*- "People had taken advantage of God's goodness & enough was enough"*

*- He had enough of a church that was not a church.*

I believe that in some churches and maybe even in some our lives God would do the same thing if He were here tonight... and I think He wants to.

Behind His wrath and the terror that it may bring one thing is sure... When he was done, *it was ready to start over.* You are a Christian that does not act like a Christian... the temple of the Holy Spirit that Jesus doesn't recognize as home.

**Do we see a soft kind of lukewarm God who doesn't really care so much?**

**Do we see a soft kind of lukewarm God who doesn't really care so much?**

Noah's Ark (there was only one way out)

Exodus (River crossing)

Sodom & Gomorrah

Daniel's Adversaries???

Revelation 19:11-21 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming - **NO HESITATION**

War against God? (Road Kill - possum)

*Do not repay evil for evil... **WHY?** Vengeance in MINE.*

Romans 12:9 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord.

Hebrews 10:29-30 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord...

Revelation 20:11-15 Final Judgment (You can't even hide in the grave)

## **A Holy Wrath**

Not an out of control temper or some big bully  
He is completely in control, He will not tolerate sin.

**In the same way that a *judge* issues out a sentence. (no hesitation)**

They don't seem very nervous... He just showed up for work.

Psalm 7:11 *God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day.* If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready.

**Out plucking daisies or petting sheep**

**He watches over us the way a father watches over his children**

**Do we understand our Father in heaven, oceans, holiness, angry?**

Matthew 10:28 “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

**Why do we let ourselves get influenced into sin...** it is fear that compels us to cower to sin... do not any longer fear those who can kill you.

**If I were to die today... in the end it would be that bad.**

- Stage to streets of Gold
- Tiny house in chino to mansion in heaven

*Don't forget who "I am"*

It's like dad when you're little: All fun and games until you cross the line. Those huge arms that could defend you at the park now say “go to your room, I'll be there in a minute”.

Bear Story: Todd and apple picking... We think we have it all figured out and end up running away.

What would it be like if Jesus were to show up tonight and look at you with those eyes that are like a flame of fire, In absolute perfection a King who has been sharpening His sword and will not tolerate sin and He were to look into your heart...

Jesus wasn't having a bad day in the temple  
**So why don't we see the wrath of God displayed like this these days?**

## **The Mercy of God**

*The mercy of God is the only thing that is holding back His wrath.*

**What is this mercy... whatever it is we should L-O-V-E it!!!**

*Wrath is easy to see...*

Jesus Throwing Tables  
Waves crashing on Pharaohs' Head  
The Flood  
The second coming

*Mercy goes unnoticed every day.*

**Not getting what we deserve**

**It's not receiving the punishment that we deserve.**

Lamentation 3:22 *Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.*

Matthew 9:13 "But go and learn what *this* means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice... (sacrifice, a Sunday service, giving stuff up vs. burdens being taken)

**Kings debt**

**It's not receiving the punishment that we deserve.**

**THE CROSS, the process of the cross**

Luke 23:40-41 (This man is innocent)

**God is Holy and makes no mistakes... so what was He doing there?**

"It should have been our back, our crown, our cross"

*Jesus steps in and does it for us.*

**Salvation, in being free it feels so cheap.**

**It happens so fast but costs us so little.**

And so when I sin, lose our temper or get greedy or you step into that part of life that you are not supposed to...

When we begin to look like a church that isn't really a church anymore.

**Question: Would you do it if Jesus was there hanging on the cross?**

**One more nail? One more lash?**

Every time we step into sin and fail to see Christ as He is, we are the ones spitting in His face, gambling for His clothes.

**This is what Mercy is... it is not getting the punishment we deserve.**

*His wrath is very real and is coming like a truck down the highway...*

**Thought: Your mercy can only be as great as your wrath**

**Soldier**

**Matthew 21:14**

*Absolute power to do whatever He wants, whenever He wants... and He wants to rescue you from your sins.*

**Joshua 7 - Took the gold and costly clothing (family died) Akin**

**Numbers 16 - Rebellion from pride (Ground opened up) Korah**

**Pride always leads to rebellion**

**Not confidence, talent... it's, I'm just a little bit better.**

**Peter: Shame, guilt and self-condemnation**

**Woman in Adultery (Go and sin no more)**

**Jesus was at her defense and she didn't even know it.**

**God has called us to look to Jesus, the Author and finisher of our faith, to be holy as He is holy.**

**Under-emphasized is His wrath**

**Under-appreciated would be His mercy**

***“When this is all said and done,  
we will receive all of God’s wrath  
or all of our Father’s Mercy.”***