

# **Sermon Handout**

## “Mercy from the Heart”

### II Corinthians 4:1-7

*“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God  
of all comfort.” — II Cor 1:3*

- I.** Treasure in earthen vessels vv. 6-7  
The content of the vessel cannot be inferred from its appearance  
II Cor 10:7-18
- The light (the glorious gospel) shines (is manifested) in us v. 6  
It is hidden to the world by Satan through unbelief vv. 3-4
- Those who reject our ministry reject Christ, not us  
So our ministry must be Christlike.
- II.** Recipients of mercy, we serve others vv. 1, 5
- God’s mercy manifested to us during our alienation  
Eph 2:4-7 (*cf.* Rom 5:8)
- The light of the gospel is mercy Jas 1:17  
*Cf.* Gen 1:3; Jn 1:9; Acts 9:3
- God’s mercy is revealed in his servants  
Phil 2:7; Mk 5:19; II Tim 1:16-18  
Mt 5:7; Acts 9:36, 40-41
- III.** The Glory of God – hidden and revealed vv. 2-4
- a. Justice and Mercy: are they in tension?  
See Hos 6:6 – sacrifice satisfies justice; mercy the goal  
Mt 9:10-13; 12:1-7
- b. Justice underlies mercy, but leads to it  
The mercy of God unveiled to men through the cross  
John 1:15-17
- c. Wisdom manifests in mercy & good works, leading to peace  
Jas 3:13-18