

I Desire Mercy,
Not Sacrifice

MATTHEW 9:13

¹³ “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

PSALM 103:8–12

⁸ The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love. ⁹ He will not accuse, nor will He harbor his anger forever.

¹⁰ He does not treat us as our sins deserve, or repay us according to our iniquities.

PSALM 103:8–12

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is His love for those who fear Him; ¹² as
far as the east is from the west, so far has He
removed our transgressions from us.

HOSEA 6:6

⁶ For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

"As we can see in Sacred Scripture, mercy is a keyword that indicates God's action towards us. He does not limit himself merely to affirming his love, but makes it visible and tangible. Love, after all, can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature, it indicates

something concrete: intentions, attitudes, and behaviours that are shown in daily living. The mercy of God is his loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, he desires our wellbeing and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path

which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as he is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other."

—POPE FRANCIS