

The quality of mercy

'The quality of mercy is not strain'd, It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath' – William Shakespeare, Merchant of Venice.

Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy)

Christe Eleison (Christ have mercy)

Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy) – A worldwide Christian prayer (in Greek)

Oh how the world still needs an injection of mercy! To offer peace, reconciliation or forgiveness. Even when one has the upper hand, or the ability to exact revenge or harm. It is the very heart of the Gospel and something we should be confident to declare. When some decry the faith it's usually because they know little of the mercy of God, which is the context for everything else. It's the beginning, the middle and the end of God's purposes, for the Earth and everything in it.

James the brother of Jesus knew this only too well. James who during his brothers earthly life was not a believer. James who, later having seen the light, became the first leader of the fledgling church in Jerusalem. James who pulls no punches in a letter he wrote, preserved in the New Testament of our Bibles. James who was probably executed for no more than what he believed. This week we visit a passage from the aforementioned letter, in which he challenges believers to practice what his brother taught. And note the summary of this part of his writing ... mercy triumphs over judgement! Why?



Because the mercy of God knows no end!