Journey towards the Cross

Topic:
God's mercy always follows judgement.
Bible portion:
Genesis 9:8-17
Focus:
The Covenant: Mercy always follows judgement.

February 21, 2026

A daily devotional for lent season

40-Day Gospel Reading Plan

Bible Readings for Today

Matthew 10-12

Have you Read your Bible today?

Memory Verse for the day

So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven.
Matthew 10:32 (ESV)

Quote

"God's mercy and grace give me hope—for myself, and for our world."

- Billy Graham

A little boy once broke his neighbor's window while playing cricket. The crash shocked him. He knew he had done wrong. Fear tightened his chest as he walked to the neighbor's door, rehearsing his apology.

When the door opened, he confessed through tears. The neighbor listened quietly. After a pause, the man said, "You were wrong to be careless." The boy gathered his courage. Then the neighbor continued, "But I appreciate your honesty. I forgive you. Let's fix this together."

Instead of anger, there was mercy. Instead of distance, there was restoration. The correction was real— but it was not the end of the relationship.

Countless times throughout the Bible we see God showing his love and patience toward men and women in order to save them. Although He realizes that their hearts are evil, He continues to try to reach them. When we sin or fall away from God, we surely deserve to be destroyed by His judgement. But God has promised never again to destroy everything on earth until the judgement day when Christ returns to destroy evil forever. Now every change of season is a reminder of His promise.

As Noah stepped out of the ark onto an earth washed clean by judgement, God met him with grace, establishing a covenant and offering a reassuring promise for

the future. This covenant included three assurances:

1. Never again will a flood destroy all life on the earth.

2. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter will continue.

3. A rainbow will appear in the clouds as a visible sign that God will always keep His promise.

The rainbow appears not as a reward for human faithfulness, but as a sign of **God's mercy**. God binds Himself—"Never again"— placing the bow in the clouds as a reminder not for humanity, but for **Himself**. Judgment is real, but it is never God's final word.

The flood reveals how seriously God takes sin. The rainbow reveals how deeply God loves His creation. God does not end the story with destruction. He ends it with a **covenant**.

In Genesis 9, mercy follows judgment not because humanity has changed, but because **God is faithful**. That faithfulness reaches its fullest expression in Christ, where judgment

and mercy meet at the cross. Lent points us there—through confession, through humility, toward resurrection hope.

When we face God's correction in our lives, it can feel heavy. God corrects us because He seeks to restore us. Are we ready to accept the correction in our lives?

Prayer:

Merciful God, when we feel the weight of our sin, remind us that Your mercy follows judgement and leads us into new life. **Amen**

-Rev. I. Kingsley Johnpaul

Prayer Point

Pray for minority communities.